

11.20.11

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Scott VanEtten

I recently read Hosea 6:4. “Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears.” I knew God was speaking to me, but what I heard was “Your love is there until your kids get up in the morning or quickly leaves as soon as your husband asks you to do something.” I knew God was telling me that it’s easy to proclaim my love for Him when I’m all alone and no one is bothering me. What God wants is to have first place in my heart all day long.

Quite often in my life, God has to tell me over and over something He’s trying to teach me. I don’t often get it the first time. This verse was waiting in my inbox today: “Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.” Psalm 90:14. One of the definitions of satisfy is to leave nothing to be desired. God’s will is for me to be so fully satisfied in Him that I don’t want anything else. I have experienced His unfailing love, but I easily let my circumstances cloud the picture. My wants get in the way of seeing God and thanking Him. My wishes often lead to hurtful attitudes and behaviors and sometimes don’t benefit anyone. I can thank God and a moment later act like I don’t even know Him.

God wants my heart. He wants my undivided devotion, but I haven’t given it fully to Him. I get distracted by the things I want, by the things I don’t have, and by my frustration over things not going my way. I continually have to confess that He isn’t first in my life, and sometimes this feels hopeless. I can’t do it on my own! Why can’t I get this right?!? Then I remember what God has already done in my life. I consider the countless confessions He’s heard . . . and forgiven. I think of the mercy He’s shown and the pit out of which He brought me. Unlike an acquaintance, He will not give up on me. He will not be discouraged. This is what draws me closer to Him, and I realize how much I need Him.

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) Have I put my love for God first in my heart, or is there something else that has taken His place?

What is my most valued possession? Have I put it before God?

Who or what am I going to allow to sit on the throne of my heart? Am I going to allow Christ to have His rightful place?

Scott said, “We justify stuff all the time because it makes us feel better.” Name some of the things we have justified. Have they been a help or a hindrance in my relationship with God and others?

What do I need to do to move Christ from just “head knowledge” into a deep place in my heart?

Do I believe that God is enough? Have I experienced this? If so, how will I respond?

What should I do to put God first? What steps can I take? What's standing in the way?

This month's memory verse: "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward everyone according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve." (Jeremiah 17:10 TNIV)

Additional verses: Genesis 22:1-12; Hosea 6:4, 13:6; 1 Corinthians 15:31; Exodus 20:4-5, Psalm 90:14

REMINDERS:

11.27 –The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!!“The 18” Disconnect”

So often as Christ followers we have a major disconnect between our head and our heart. Join us as Dan unpacks the process of reuniting the two with Jesus being the conduit of connection!

This will also be our “4 the City” event...PLEASE JOIN US AT 5:00 IN THE 5/6 BUILDING FOR A TIME OF PRAYER FOR THE SCHOOL, OUR COMMUNITY & OUR FAMILIES!!** The Gathering will start at 6:00.**

12.4 - **Our first Gathering back at SHU in Dominican Hall...where it all began!!! We will also be moving to a morning service time at 10:00am! Join us for another new chapter of 1MOSAIC.**