



June 23, 2020

Will You Taste and See?

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! (Psalm 34:8)

To move beyond a life that is futile, failing, and full of things that do not matter we must turn our minds to God. A life in which we find Him to be sufficient is one of tasting and seeing the Lord's goodness to us personally, it is finding him to be our refuge when the world seems to be crumbling around us. We're not talking about some theory about the way things should work or guesses about what we wished things were like. As long as God remains an impersonal and distant mystery we will have no realistic idea of what He is like. And for all practical purposes, God will remain an oblong blur and exist beyond our tangible grasp.

We may remember Nicodemus, a respected religious leader in Jesus' day. And yet, he could not make sense of a simple question asked him by Jesus, "Don't you know you must be born from above? Don't you know that you need another life in you that goes beyond the natural one in your body?" (John 3:1-16). Now the history of Israel was full of the reality of God, but it did not mean anything to Nicodemus because he had not experienced it personally. Jesus said God's kingdom, his action in the world is much like the wind, you can see its effects, but without being born from above you cannot tell where it was coming from.

It is here we face a genuine challenge because I find it so easy to be like Nicodemus. To compliment Jesus as coming from God and doing things that only God can do, yet all the while I'm complimenting myself for being an insider who has the good sense to recognize what God is doing. And Jesus just throws cold water all over us saying, unless there is new life being birthed in you from above you cannot recognize the workings of God, unless you participate in the life of God you are not part of His governance for good - His kingdom.

Practice: *Often our knowledge of God and his nature does not carry with it the weight of experience. This week, begin to sketch out what it means to, "reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:17). Read and reflect on John 5:16-47, enter into this passage as a student seeking to learn from your teacher, Jesus. What do you notice about Jesus? What are the defining principles that guide his life? Ask God to help you see things that would be important in your walk with him.*

Your Servant for Jesus' Sake,