

Family TableTalk

Conversation 49

Kingdom Priorities

read

Mark 1:35-39

think

Jesus knew why he had come. He could have amassed a large following. He could have allowed the opportunity to grow in popularity to steer his decisions. He could have sought fame and glory for himself... but he didn't.

If Jesus was living in the flesh in contemporary times, I think it's safe to say he wouldn't have spent much time worrying about how many social media followers he had. I doubt he would've spent much time taking the perfect selfie and finding just the right filter to use on Instagram. In fact, if we read the second half of the first chapter of Mark, we'll find Jesus instructing those around him NOT to tell anyone about the miraculous things he was doing. Drawing attention to himself wasn't the point. Inaugurating and advancing God's kingdom was what motivated Jesus.

We know from Hebrews 4:15 that Jesus must have been tempted by fame. The thought of building an earthly kingdom surely crossed his mind. In fact, when Satan tempted Jesus in the dessert, Satan plants the very idea! When we find ourselves consumed with gaining status among others, whether through likes and followers on social media, or in terms of popularity in the hallways of our schools, or within the cubicles of our offices, we know that we are not alone in this struggle. But how do we resist the temptation to build up ourselves? Mark 1:35 shows us a good place to start. Jesus was connected to his Father, our Heavenly Father, through prayer. It reminded him of why he had come and helped him focus on God's mission. Perhaps you need to be reminded of how you can plug into God's plans, rather than following your own agenda. Why not try starting each day with prayer?

apply

- Is seeking fame, notoriety, popularity, or more social media followers a temptation that you struggle with? Discuss with your family times this temptation has occurred in your life. How can you refocus your efforts toward God's kingdom?
- Read Mark 1:21-45. Why did Jesus tell those he healed not to tell others what he'd done? Does this strategy make sense to you? Why or why not?
- If you don't already, try starting each day this week (and hopefully beyond) in prayer. If you normally check your phone first thing in the morning... when you go to grab it, pause and go to the Lord in prayer first.

pray

Jesus, you knew exactly why you had come and you stuck to your Father's mission. Thank you. May your example of going to God in prayer early in the morning lead us to do the same. Father, help us to resist the temptation to build up our own kingdoms, but instead help us to seek your will so that we can play the role in your kingdom that you have designed us for. Amen.

by **Chris Wagner**

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