

Transformational Environments: Part 2 – Coram Deo - Mark 1:35-39

“Coram Deo” is a Latin term that means – “Before the face of God!”

Basically all of life falls under this definition, because of who God is.

But what would happen if we were to take literally the meaning of this term and try to come before God face to face in His presence? **We would die!**

Moses’ encounter with God in **Exodus 33:18-23** reveals this fact!

Moses only saw the backside of God and the Scriptures tell us that his face literally “shined” and had to be veiled while in the presence of the people.

Though we, like Moses, can’t literally look upon the face of God, we can come into His presence and experience Him in a very real and personal way!

The effects/outcomes of having these one on one encounters with God can mean the difference between knowing & living into God’s will for our lives or living with doubts, fears and a lack of clear direction for our lives.

Consider the life & ministry of Jesus, who had a very clear calling & purpose for His earthly life, who was one w/ God, but even He would often leave the crowds/disciples behind in order to be alone w/ the Father. **Mark 1:35-39.**

Jesus knew that if He was going to live out the purpose for which He was sent, **He needed time w/the Father, one on one, to hear from & engage with Him!**

If Moses & Jesus needed time alone with God to be realigned, equipped & encouraged to press on, how important is it for us to have this time w/ God?

Let’s look a little closer at Jesus’ one on one encounter with the Father in Mark 1:35-39. The details of that experience aren’t given, but the purpose for, and the outcome of, this encounter are clear.

Jesus got alone with the Father for the purpose of **realigning** Himself with the will of God for His life and for His ministry!

Mark’s gospel clearly reveals the purpose for Jesus’ coming - **“Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, & saying “The time is fulfilled, & the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent & believe in the gospel.” Vs. 14-15**

But listen to what transpired as He began to live out this purpose - **Mark 1:21-34**
Even Jesus got distracted w/ the demands of real life! Unclean spirits needed casted out, people needed healing, demons needed to be silenced!

What are the things that get in the way of you living out what you believe God’s purposes are for your life? _____

When Jesus was in that moment of being torn in different directions and struggling with the wants & demands placed upon Him, this is how He responded, **“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed.” – Vs. 35.**

I hear people say that they don’t have time to pray, to have a devotional time w/God, but if Jesus made the time, if He needed it to realign Himself to the purposes of God for His life, then it’s critically important for us to do the same.

The reality is that we all will struggle w/the demands of life, the expectations & wants of ourselves & others, but **whose voice will we to listen & respond to?**

If our answer is “God’s voice”, do we recognize it? Have we put ourselves in a position where when God speaks we know it b/c we are familiar with His voice?

When we make a habit of being alone with God, giving opportunity to hear His voice, God speaks, moves, leads, redirects, realigns, reveals Himself & His Will for our lives. **He does this b/c He loves us & because He is a relational God!**

So how can we do this? How can we make time w/God a priority?

- Block out a time in your day! Jesus chose to rise early in the morning.
- **Block out distractions!** Jesus found a desolate place.
- Acknowledge your need! If Jesus needed this then so do we!
- Expect clarity and direction! God will make His Will known to us!
- **Choose to follow where He leads you!** Trust the work of His Spirit!

If we choose to make the time, what do we do when we are alone w/God?

- We speak to Him! Remember Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane!
- We Listen! God will speak, but not normally in an audible voice!
- **We Learn!** God reveals Himself and His purposes as we seek Him!
- We praise! Time alone with God will always lead to worship!

If you are longing for the love of Jesus to transform your life, then place yourself in the transformational environment of one on one time with God!

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