

Chapter Three:

Serving With Favor

Day 1

Proclaiming God's Favor

(Luke 4:18-19)

What is the greatest favor someone has asked of you? Did you grant it? What is the greatest favor someone has done for you? How did it make you feel? When you hear about something that is too good to pass up, who do you tell? Why? What do you deserve from God? How does His favor change what you actually get? How would your service to others change if you were more deliberate in proclaiming God's favor? How will you proclaim God's favor today with your actions as well as your words?

By definition, favor is something given to us that we don't deserve. There is no greater undeserved gift than the grace God gives. Many people are quick to rejoice in, and proclaim, the favors they receive from one another, but suddenly become hesitant when it comes to proclaiming God's favor. Our service to others must always involve proclaiming God's favor or it will come up woefully short of what it should be.

As you pray, ask God to help you grasp the fullness of His favor in your life. Pray that you would be so filled with His favor that you would want others to experience it as well. Pray that everything you do as you serve would proclaim God's favor.

Notes: _____

Day 2

Favor In Giving

(Genesis 4:4)

When you think about favor in giving, do you think about giving that is given or received — or both? Why? How do you respond to the favor that is given to you? How eager are you to show favor to others in your giving? What does your attitude about giving say about the value you place on those you give to? What would your giving need to look like for God to look upon it with favor? How would that type of giving impact the way you serve?

Sometimes we give out of obligation or what we think is deserved, but God wants us to extend favor in our giving. As we recognize God's favor extended to us through the giving of His Son, we ought to consider how we can extend a similar favor to those we serve. It is when we give according to God's instructions that will find Him looking upon our offerings with favor. The people we serve need to know God's favor and we have the opportunity to help them see it in the way we give.

As you pray, ask God to help you examine your giving according to His perspective. Pray that you would give in such a way that He looks upon your efforts with favor. Pray that your giving reveals to others that you put God first in your life.

Notes: _____

Day 3

Favor Through Humility

(2 Chronicles 33:12)

Have you ever had someone demand that you do them a favor? How did you feel? Have you ever tried to demand that someone does a favor for you? Why? Are you more likely to show favor to someone who needs it and knows they don't deserve it, or to someone who needs it and thinks they deserve it? Why? What does it take from you in order to show favor to others? How does humility help you to serve with favor even when you don't feel like it?

Godly humility isn't about thinking less of our self than we ought, but rather about thinking accurately of our self according to God's view. It is through humility that we are able to show favor to those we serve because that is how we obtain favor from God. The Bible says that "in humility, we should consider others better than ourselves." That doesn't mean others are better than us, but rather we consider them in such a manner so that we can serve like Jesus.

As you pray, ask God to help you have the humility necessary to show favor to those you serve. Pray that you would humble yourself before God as you seek His favor. Pray that you would serve others in complete humility because of His favor.

Notes: _____

Day 4

Favor of God's Protection

(Psalm 5:12)

Have you ever done something that others thought was not safe? Why did you do it? Did you feel safe even when others thought it was too risky or dangerous? Why? Have you ever not done something that you wanted to because it didn't look or sound safe? What would have changed your mind? What does God's protection mean to you? What role does His favor have in protecting you? How will the favor of His protection help you serve others more fully?

Serving people can be scary. To serve as Jesus served will cost us everything and most of us aren't too thrilled about paying that price. Many of us have stepped out in faith to serve someone only to end up hurt in the process, so we begin to wonder where the favor of God's protection was. Yet when we serve under the favor of God's protection, it is not our physical body or even our emotions that He is most concerned about protecting — it is our spiritual life and relationship with Him.

As you pray, ask God to help you see how the favor of His protection can guard your very soul against the evil one. Pray for courage to serve as you should because of this protection.

Notes: _____

Day 5
Favor of Salvation
(Psalm 69:13)

What do you deserve from God? Why? Is salvation possible without God's favor? How difficult is it to accept the favor of salvation? What other options are there? How should the favor of God's salvation affect the way you serve others? Does it? Do you expect those you serve to earn salvation in a way that you know you can't? Why? How will sharing the favor of God's salvation change the way you serve?

Most people will not accept help until they are able to admit they need help and most people will not help others until they believe others need help. Neither you nor I, or anyone else, has a hope of eternal salvation without God's favor being extended to us. As those who have welcomed God's favor, it is our responsibility to share the good news of His favor with those who have yet to accept it.

As you pray, thank God for the favor of His salvation. Pray that you would live with a greater awareness of His favor as the source of your salvation. Pray for the courage and love necessary to share the good news of salvation with those you serve. Pray that your service to others would direct them to the favor of God's salvation.

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Day 6

Favor With God and People

(Proverbs 3:3-4)

How do the actions of people influence the favor you are likely to show to them? How do your actions influence the favor others are likely to extend to you? If you can't earn God's favor, and you can't, what role does a life of love and faithfulness have on how you are viewed by both God and people? How would winning the favor of people help you better serve them? What will it take to do so?

Without a deliberate decision to do otherwise, most people live with a double standard when it comes to the favor we desire to receive and the favor we are willing to extend. The reason God's favor is extended to us is solely based on His love and faithfulness and that should be the same reason we extend our favor to others. When we fully clothe ourselves with love and faithfulness, we find that it is much easier to win favor with God and people.

As you pray, ask God to help you live in such a way that love and faithfulness never leave you. Pray that you would have a good reputation among those you serve. Pray that a life of love and faithfulness would always be your response to God's favor.

Notes: _____

Day 7
Favor As a Community
(Acts 2:46-47)

How does the reputation of those you spend time with change how you are viewed by others? Is that change positive or negative? What makes the difference? How would being part of a group that everyone views as doing good things in a community make you feel? Why? Is it possible to inherit a reputation from a group you are closely associated with? What makes that reputation stick? How will having favor as a group help you serve those around you?

Sometimes the people we are called upon to serve don't know us very well and our effectiveness is heavily influenced by the reputation of those we are associated with. If we represent a group they have had a bad experience with, then we will likely be viewed with great skepticism. However, if we are part of a group that has gained favor by their past actions, then our help and service are more likely to be welcomed.

As you pray, ask God to help you accurately consider the level of favor the groups you are associated with have among those you serve. Pray that God would use you to increase the level of favor that His children have in your community. Pray that your service would allow you to enjoy the favor of all people.

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