

40 Day Fast: A God-Hungry Heart

The 40 day period of fasting begins tomorrow...

The Purpose of this Fast

- 1) Draw Close to God.
- 2) Activate Your Prayer Life. (fasting intensifies your prayer life)
- 3) Seek God for a Supernatural Breakthrough. (healing for you or someone you love; direction; financial provision; salvation for someone away from God; emotional breakthrough for deep hurt that is controlling you.)

One More Purpose – Seek God for a new move of Him in your heart!

***There is something better waiting for you. God wants to do something New In You.
Will you seek Him for the New?!***

John is different than the other Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke):

- John chose to focus on very specific miraculous events and certain teachings of Jesus.
- An interesting observation is John chose 7 miracles and he calls them signs.
 - That is significant because a sign denotes a purpose.
 - Signs give us direction and reveal needed information.

He also chose 7 “I am” teachings of Christ (7 times Jesus revealed his true identity).

John 4 (Thursday’s reading)– Jesus has an encounter with the Woman at the Well:

- One of the most beautiful and powerful moments found in all the Gospels.
- Jesus led by the Spirit goes out of his way to meet a Samaritan woman who was a 5 time divorcee and an outcast in her own community.
- While Jesus is ministering to her, the disciples are off searching for lunch. They were hungry and brought Jesus some food.

He doesn’t touch his food, he keeps on focusing on her needs...

*John 4:31-33 KJV In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. **32** But he said unto them, I have **meat to eat that ye know not of.** **33** Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? **34** Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.***

What Jesus is describing here is what I will call a **God-Hungry Heart**.

A New God-Hungry Heart

I am praying for a God-Hungry Heart. For myself and for you!

David prayed for this as he was being confronted by his own sinfulness. *Ps. 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart and **renew** and right spirit with in me.”*

A **God-Hungry Heart** will result in:

1) A New Revelation of Jesus.

Paul Prayed over the Ephesians for this - *Eph 3:19 ESV “... to **know the love of Christ** that surpasses knowledge, (head knowledge), **that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**”*

2) A New Level of Faith.

*Romans 10:17 ESV So **faith** comes from hearing, and hearing through **the word of Christ***

Hearing the Word of Christ... note: this is why I am excited for us to begin our 40 days in the gospel of John. You will hear the word of Christ in a very very strong measure.

Romans 8:5 NIV Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

This is the how God-Hungry Hearts read the word!

Seven Ways to Apply the Word

Ask yourself, is there:

1. An example to follow?
2. A sin to avoid?
3. A command to obey?
4. A promise to claim?
5. An action to take?
6. An attitude to adopt?
7. A principal or truth to learn?

3) A New Devotion for Doing the Will of God.

v. 34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Knowing and Doing the will of God is the secret to a joy-filled life!

- Looking for direction
- Confirmation of your calling
- A new love for helping people

Conclusion:

*Mt. 6:16-18 ESV “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **17** But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, **18** that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

“Being seen fasting and fasting to be seen are not the same. Being seen fasting is a mere external event. Fasting TO BE SEEN is a self-exalting motive of the heart.”

- John Piper
