

## Drawing Near

**James 4:8**

**Exodus 33:7-11**

### Drawing near to God

- Separate yourself from the crowd regularly—v. 7
- Seek God with all of your heart—v. 7
- Don't be intimidated by others—v. 8
- Learn to listen and obey God's voice—v. 9
  - When you read and study your Bible, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal the Father's will to you.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and leadership.
  - Pay attention to the inward voice or nudging in your spirit.
  - Be obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
  - **Romans 8:14** - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
- Invite Jesus into your daily life—**Revelation 3:20** - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me."

### Don't let Jesus pass you by—Mark 6:45-51

- NLT—He intended to go past them—v. 48
- Jesus will not impose himself on you.
- He comes into your boat, not because there is a storm; Jesus comes in by invitation.
- Moses saw the bush on fire but not being consumed. Yet, he had to "turn aside" to hear God's voice speaking to him. **Exodus 3**
- Samuel was awakened by the voice of God. Yet, he had to respond, "Speak, your servant is listening." **1 Samuel 3:1-16**

### Don't ever be satisfied with Less-Than

- There is an experience with God that few ever find. Most let Jesus pass them by.
- Most fill themselves up with junk food. So, they don't really have an appetite for real and better food.
- **Proverbs 27:7** - A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb.
- Most Christ followers are not indifferent to God's presence, because they despise God, but because their hunger was quenched by Less-Than filler!
- Taste buds are sensitized to what they are exposed. In Yangon, Myanmar, Michelle and I shared a few meals with a Japanese businessman on the roof of the hotel he owned. The seaweed and raw seafood he served us was delicious to him, but not so much to us. Most Americans have a great taste for hamburgers, French fries, soda pop, beer and pizza. Your taste buds can be trained to enjoy vegetables, fruit and water.
- "You are going to spoil your dinner!"
- You don't want to fill up on crackers, when carne asada is cooking on the grill! In the same way, you don't want to fill up on sports talk or Hollywood gossip, when God is inviting you to meet in the tent of his presence!
- The greatest thief that steals our hunger for God is our busy lifestyle.
- Guard your heart—**Proverbs 4:20-23** - My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the

midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

**Develop a Joshua attitude—Exodus 33:11**

- Joshua refused to leave the tent of meeting
- He stayed and soaked up as much of *God* as he could

**Call to action**

- Have you been settling for Less-Than?
- Are you hungry for *God's* presence?
- Turn aside now. Respond to *God's* voice, "Speak your servant is listening."
- Be obedient to the Holy Spirit's leading.
- Draw near to *God* and he will draw near to you.