***Lesson: Hug to Holy—God’s Glory***

***October 6, 2019***

**From Mike:**

Religious words can be intimidating. They are usually not part of our daily language and they carry so much extra baggage that it can make us uncomfortable to use them. You have the big ones, like sanctification, justification, glorification, and righteousness—just to name a few. In our present series about going from Hug (a real relationship with God) to Holy (what He wants us to become) I shared my occasional discomfort with using the word holy. It’s just a seriously heavy religious word, and for me to be told to “Be holy as He is holy” is a seriously heavy demand to chew on! But holy isn’t about perfection but grace-driven godliness. It’s making godly choices in our life to become more like our Father. I’m learning to not be afraid of being holy! God’s grace makes me holy, not my perfect living.

 Glory is another word that, at least in religious circles, is misunderstood, misused, and misapplied. Yes, it’s similar to praise, but it means so much more. Praise is voicing approval or appreciation. Glory is something that belongs to God and we either add to it or we detract from it. Glory is the radiant light of God being reflected back on Him by how we live and what we say. It’s not just the words of a song we may proclaim, it’s the way our life proclaims the presence and power of God! While we can certainly give glory to God, in a greater sense we are the glory of God. It’s the element of consistency in our relationship with Him. Just like we don’t stop being a spouse to our marriage partner, we never stop being a child of our Father. His presence is seen in our life as we reflect Him wherever we are and whomever we happen to be with.

 As we look at what is involved in being holy—becoming what He wants us to become—we have to clearly see the things that we are responsible for in this relationship. We have looked at being responsible for the choices we make and being responsible for His message, which he gave to us. This morning we will be looking at being responsible for His glory. We have been reconciled to Him, we are his restored children—just like the Prodigal son, and we have Him and Jesus and the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. We represent God! We are His living epistles, his ambassadors, and “for me to live is Christ.” We are responsible for making sure everything we do reflects positively and consistently on God! ***“Whether we eat or drink we do all to the glory of God.”***

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