



Lesson Nine

Choosing Intimate Relationship over Routine Religion

Day 1

1. Read Chapter 9 in *A Sudden Glory*.
2. After reading Chapter 9, how would you explain the difference between practicing religion and having a relationship with Jesus?
3. Here's one of my favorite nuggets: "The glory ache within all of us will not be soothed with theological studies, even though those studies may well pave the way. During difficult times, even the best theology can fail you if it isn't accompanied by experience bathed in relationship. The glory ache will be stayed by experiencing intimacy with God as He speaks to your heart and reveals His presence-His glory." page 174.

Is there one particular idea in chapter 9 that spoke to your heart more than others? Please share your answer in the comment box.

Day 2

1. Answer questions 1-8 in Lesson 9 of the Study Guide.
2. Let's look at question 3. What does the fact that the father allowed the son to make poor choices show us about why God allows us to wallow in our own poor choices? Please share your answer in the comment box.

3. In question 4, I asked how this story is an example of God's passionate pursuit of our hearts. I'd love to hear your answer. Please leave your answer in the comment box.
4. What did God reveal to you in the first part of the story that you had never seen before?

Day 3

1. Answer questions 9-14 of the Study Guide.
2. When you read about the elder brother, did you like him or dislike him? Would you want to be his friend? His confidant? His accountability partner?
3. What can we do to make sure we don't turn into a Pharisee or an elder brother? Share your answer in the comment box.

Day 4

Day four of each week has extra Bible study questions that are not in the Bible Study Guide. These are for on-line Bible study participants who want to dig a little deeper.

1. What was the father's response to the son's apologetic plea, repentant heart, and request for a job?

Try to describe what you think was going through the son's mind as his father restored his position as a son. Share your answer in the comment box.

2. Feasting on the fatted calf was only done for special occasions and parties. Usually the entire village was invited. How does this idea relate to Luke 15:8-10, especially verse 10? Who rejoices when a person is reunited with God?
3. One more snapshot. Flip over to Luke 18:9-14. To whom was Jesus speaking? Describe the two men praying?

How do these two men reflect the attitudes of the two sons in Luke 15?

Which one was more interested in practicing religion and which one was more concerned with a restored intimate relationship with God?

Which one better reflects your attitude in prayer?

Share one truth that impacted you through today's lesson.

Day 5

It's time for a video chat. Click on the video link for some face-to-face time. After viewing the video, come back and share what impacted your life the most in Lesson Seven. Ask a question. Give an insight. This is your space.