

Volume 2, Day 21: How to Read the Bible

So how do you find a life of love for God in the Bible if it's boring to you or if you feel like it's just a condemning book? Well, I'd say first of all, don't rush into it. Learning how to read this book, learning how to draw life from it, is a journey for me too. It is the most important book I own. I look at it almost every day and every time I'm reading a scripture, I'm listening to see, is there something in here God's revealing to me about His unconditional love?

Here are some things that might help you. Begin reading the gospels. You might read them for two or three years. The more you know and feel the love of Jesus, by reading about how he treats people, the more you believe that God's love to us is most certainly unconditional. His love is never based on our behaviors or motives. He loves us because He made us for that expressed purpose! And then maybe move on to Acts and then maybe the epistles, and then eventually go back to the Old Testament and see how the stage was set. The Old Testament no longer governs how we approach God, but it helps us appreciate grace and how magnificent it is.

I like saying this about the Old Testament. I think it's the story of God's rescue, oftentimes through the eyes of people who were scared of God, who regarded him as mean and doing horrible things to his people. We find out in Jesus that God's not the cause of destruction in the story. Occasionally, he intervenes in history to further the purpose of salvation, but he's the God whose loving kindness is better than life. He's the God whose mercies never end. He's the God who wants to reveal himself every day to us.