

Volume 2, Day 29: Oh, God, Do This for Me

Peter found that out early on in his journey with Jesus. Jesus starts telling him and the rest of the disciples, I'm going to go up to Jerusalem and I'm going to be delivered up to the elders of the city and I'm going to be executed. And Peter jumps in and says, "Oh, may it never be Lord," to which Jesus responds, "Get behind me. Satan!" What a powerful moment in Peter's life. Who wouldn't want his friend to be safe? Who wouldn't want to protect Jesus from the kinds of things Jesus was talking about? But what Jesus wanted Peter to understand and what it is that we all need to understand is that when we're looking out for our interests, we're not looking out for God's interests.

God does almost everything the opposite of the way we would. He told us, "If you want to save your life, you need to lose it. If you're trying to save it yourself, you surely will lose it." He said, "If you want to be first in the line, take the last place. If you want to be a leader, you must serve everyone else." His kingdom is counterintuitive to our normal human ways of thinking, and that strikes against our prayer requests. They are mostly the things we hope God does in our circumstances. If there's a certain outcome we want, if we're trying to get God to do it, this could be a pretty frustrating journey. It's especially frustrating if when He doesn't, you feel like He doesn't love you or doesn't care, or doesn't even know you exist.

Not attached to outcome. I love the thought of that. It allows God to be bigger than our own expectations. It means God doesn't have to revolve around our safety and our comfort. So my prayers in the situations I'm in are no longer, "God, do this." or "God do that."

ENGAGING God -- Bob Clarkson