

:30 CHALLENGE

QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

What do you really think of God?

List 10 ways you are blessed:

What is it that really keeps you from trusting the Lord? Name it! (pride, fear, self-reliance, unbelief)

What do you need to repent?

Will you wait on God when His timeframe doesn't match yours?

If you have a past "I Should Have....", how can you use that to glorify the Lord?

How can you genuinely celebrate someone who is honored above you?

What happens if you don't get your "I Should Have Been...."?

How can you begin to continue to imprint God's word on your heart?

What is your approach to receive from the Lord?

How much do you need the Lord?

COZY CONVOS CHALLENGE

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have you ever said... "i should have been..."

Biblical Encouragement for Addressing Desires of our Hearts

excerpt written by Kai

I know from personal experience that "nothing"...exactly no-good-thing comes from these words "I Should HAVE Been...". The first word intensifies the complexity. The first word is "I". Anytime I have been primarily focused on myself more than Christ, it never goes well. We were not created to be self-occupied but God/Christ-focused. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you" (Matt.6:33, Luke12:31). When I focus on what I feel, what I want, what I think over what God's word says about any of it then I've created a deficit for myself that I cannot recover from on my own. "I, I, I" can become an idol in one's life. The very first sin occurred because Satan convinced Eve that God did not have her best interest in mind by withholding one thing (Genesis 2:5-25; Gen.3:1-7). That through His withholding (thou shall eat of every tree except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil; Genesis 2:16-17), He was somehow cheating her instead of protecting her/them. I wholeheartedly believe that Satan has never changed his tactics and he does the exact same thing to us today that he did with Eve by convincing us that there are things we "should have had, should have done, or should have currently" that's being withheld from us.

After enduring years of bitterness, anger and frustration about situations, I finally truly received the revelation that God is Sovereign and the Lord's protection and provision take many shapes and forms. In trusting in God, I'm agreeing to also trust His will, ways, methods and timing. I've had to learn to trust in His character and heart when I didn't understand the hand I was dealt, the circumstance I was in, or the bad consequences from "good" choices I've made. Yes, it totally sounds easier than it feels. However, temporary gratification never feels better or provides more than the promises of God. Trust in the truth that God will not withhold any good thing from you (Psalm 84:11). Finally, "I Should HAVE Been..." gives the impression that you KNOW what's best for you. We ignorantly believe that as one who was created we know more than the One who created us. I know it's a surprise my friends, but we do NOT. We are humans capable of free-will (to an extent) and decision-making; however, these are both limited to our human knowledge, experience, wisdom and information. No matter how smart you are, if you do not have all the facts/information than you cannot make the best decision. We are limited to our own natural ability; whereas, Christ is limitless. When we succeed it's because He puts His supernatural on our natural. He knows all, sees all, created all and can fix all. How can you know where and when you're supposed to be if you don't know where and when you're supposed to be? I admonish us all instead to concentrate on who's we are and what Jesus did instead of what position or status we have.

God reveals destiny and purpose as we go, or per relation to Him and what He's asking of us. Let's be honest, if He showed us everything at once, we'd walk away from Him believing we could accomplish it all on our own. The Israelites did that very thing after they were delivered out of Egypt. For all you super-religious ones who say to yourself, "well, I would never" just think back to your teen years or early twenties when you thought you knew everything or at least more than you did. Enough said. So we could continue to harp upon "I Should HAVE Been..." or we could focus on one of the things we know right now in relation to our Heavenly Father and that is for certain He called us to Him, to be loved by Him, and we receive it by/through Him (His Son, Jesus) (John 3:16; Ephesian 1:4-5; Isaiah 43:7). This is true regardless of what we've done successfully or unsuccessfully. In Christ, we are in right standing with God right now because of what Jesus did alone. We cannot do enough right to be righteous or deserve it, and we cannot do enough wrong to be disqualified because our righteousness is a free gift from Jesus's sacrifice not human works (Romans 5:17; Ephesians 2:6-10). Therefore, with us belonging to Him, He who did not withhold His most Beloved Son will not keep us from or keep from us ANY good thing(s). Just ask of the Lord, and pray for the peace and patience to receive it (1 Peter 5:10).

READ
MORE

See the following page for Biblical examples of people who suffered from the "I Should HAVE or I Should HAVE Been" condition. Many are not success stories in the beginning, but because of the Father's grace most of them end well. It shows how this poor belief system creates bad choices and decisions then manifests into various monstrosities in one's life.

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biblical examples written by Kai

adam and eve

GENESIS 2:5-25, GENESIS 3:

I Should HAVE Been...GIVING THE POWER OF GOD/THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. Eve believed the lies of Satan that God was impeding her growth, instead of protecting her life (and ours as well as a result). Eve said to herself that she too should be like God unaware that she couldn't handle the consequences that came with that knowing. God knew the fall was a result of Adam and Eve eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil but He still gave them the option (free will) to choose just like us. We can choose to focus on missed opportunities, regrets, or someone else being blessed over us or we can choose to believe that God is good and has more than enough. His blessing someone else doesn't limit His supply for us. If we have been cheated then this doesn't prevent God from restoring that and then some. In fact, He promises just that in that He, Himself, will restore 120% anything we have lost (Leviticus 6:4-6 and Psalm 69:4).

Questions to ask yourself:

- Will you decide to believe God?
- What do you really think of God?
- Do you believe the One you cannot see, sees it all and can protect and restore anything?

cain

GENESIS 4:3-8:

I Should HAVE Been...RESPECTED/RECEIVED, MY GIFT ACCEPTED BY GOD. Cain became bitter and angry with God for what he did. Does this sound familiar to anyone? He felt like his offering should have been received by God even though his approach (his offering of his own effort and strength instead of relying on God) was not only wrong but sinful to the Father. Cain gave of what was already cursed (fruit from the ground/human effort), Abel gave of what had been given in place of the curse (a firstborn lamb of his flock which signified Christ/a blood sacrifice and offering/without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin).

Questions to ask yourself:

- Can you stand someone else being blessed over you?
- Do you feel God has cheated you?
- What is your approach to receive of the Lord?

john the baptist's disciples

JOHN 3:22-36:

I Should HAVE Been...HONORED/PROMOTED OVER THEM. John the Baptist's disciples began to get upset that more people were flocking to Jesus and Jesus' disciples were baptizing more people. However, John the Baptist was confident in whose he was, what he was called to do, and the blessing of the Father on his life. His response is an example to us all in that he stated, "A man can receive nothing except as it has been granted to him from heaven". What God has for you is for you and no one can take it or diminish it unless you forfeit it or God grants them to.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Do you believe God has something specifically for you?
- Do you feel God blessing someone else diminishes your gift/blessing?

abraham and sarah

GENESIS 12, GENESIS 15-17:

I Should HAVE Been...PREGNANT BY NOW/WITH CHILD. God promised Abraham seed more numerous than the stars in the sky and sand in the earth, and Abraham believed Him. However, God never gave a timeframe for the promise so when years began to pass and they were without children they thought God forgot. Ever felt like this? God promises something and years past and still nothing. Due to the length of waiting, they took the manifestation of God's promise into their own hands and produced Ismael. Don't do what Abraham and Sarah did. They produced a child of their flesh instead of waiting on the child of promise.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Will you wait on God when His timeframe doesn't match yours?
- Will you trust in His timing when you have no patience/temperance?
- Will you trust His timing over yours?

king david

2 SAMUEL 11 - 2 SAMUEL 12:

I Should HAVE Been...WITH HER/HIM/MARRIED TO. King David had Uriah the Hittite killed in order to steal his wife, Bathsheba because he desired her. In Samuel 12:7-9, the Lord talks to David through Nathan about how He gave David so much (the throne, anointed him King; Saul's house, wives, etc.) and if that had been not enough then He would have given him more. The flesh (human nature) tends to take things it believes it's owed regardless of the truth. If King David would have been at the battle like he was supposed to, he would have never seen Bathsheba bathing to be tempted and would have never sinned with her and then plotted Uriah's demise. He should have been at war and instead committed adultery and murder. However, God showed him his sin, forgave him and then blessed him with a son of promise in Solomon.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Will you ask of God or take IT (whatever your thing is) in your own strength?
- Do you rely on your own strength more than God?

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shunammite woman

2 KINGS 4:8-37:

I Should HAVE Been...CONTENT BUT I CRIED TO GOD TO FIX MY PROBLEM. She could have been content to say, "well, I didn't have a son to begin with so I'll be happy with the time I had" but she didn't. She went back to the man of God, the Prophet Elisha and said, "all is well" because she believed if God gave a child to her the first time then He was big enough to fix it (death) and give him back to her. She did not settle for less than God's best in her situation.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Do you believe God can restore dead things (bad health, relationships, and bankruptcy/debt) back to you?
- Have you prayed for restoration, plotted your revenge or just pitied yourself?

king solomon

1 KINGS 1:

I Should HAVE Been...COUNTED OUT. Solomon was the child of Bathsheba and David: however, he wasn't the first born and his mother was looked down upon because of the initial love affair between her and the king. Thank God, He doesn't pick your position based you're your earthly parents or setbacks but upon His plan alone for your life. Thus, God made Solomon king over his brothers and made him the wisest and richest king that has ever lived.

Questions to ask yourself:

- When others discount you, will you allow God to justify you or will you try and validate (exalt) yourself?
- Do you trust more in what God has called you to be or what others think you should be or where you should be?

jesus' disciples

JOHN 21, ESPECIALLY V.15-22:

I Should HAVE Been...APPOINTED THE SAME OR BETTER. After Christ's resurrection, the third time Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples, Jesus appears at the seashore and prepares a meal and feeds his disciples. Once they finished eating, Jesus asked Peter three times "do you love me?" then mandated him to feed and shepherd (tend to) His sheep. Upon completion of Christ's commission for Peter, Peter asks Jesus what's to happen to John (the One whom Jesus loved) or basically what's his (John's) mandate? Instead of focusing on what Jesus asked of him, Peter was turning his focus onto what Christ wanted from someone else. Was it because he truly cared to help or was it competition? I believe the latter due to Christ's response. Jesus replied by telling Peter, "If I want him to tarry until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!" Thus, in reference to what someone else is called to do for Christ or what someone else's ministry, department, marriage, family is doing, I believe this is still Christ's answer to us. What is that to you? Let God be God and Jesus deal with them, you follow Him. Follow what He's asking of you not someone else. You have no anointing for someone else's calling. Your anointing, grace, favor and supply is on and in what He's asked of you not of your family member, friend, frenemy, enemy, or anyone else.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Do you always have to win or be first?
- How do you handle lost or failure?
- How can you follow Christ instead of focusing on following (i.e. Social Media, gossip, etc.) what He's doing for others more?

jonathan

1 SAMUEL 18-20:

I Should HAVE Been...KING OVER MY FRIEND (DAVID). According to custom, Jonathan should have been king after his father, Saul. However, God rejected Saul thus inherently guaranteeing Jonathan would never be King. Yet, he didn't get bitter or angry. No, Jonathan did the complete opposite...he jumped on board to what God positioned. He supported David even though it meant helping the one who was technically taking "his place/position". Jonathan became an assistant (helper/confidant/friend) to the young shepherd boy, David, who would become king in his stead. He was content in the role he played, and didn't sweat the title above or behind his name. He fell into the flow of God and was honored. Because he trusted the way of his heavenly Father more than his earthly father, Saul, Jonathan's house was restored. His trust in God enabled him to be faithful to David and caused his son, Mephibosheth, to be remembered, restored and renewed when the rest of Saul's house was forgotten. Your visibility and position is not a direct correlation to your value to God. You can be or feel invisible but that doesn't mean you are not invaluable.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Can you trust God when He asks you to play the part of a Jonathan instead of a David?
- Will you be content and trust God if your role in life is as a helper and not a King?
- Does the title or role you play affect your service?
- Can you celebrate someone who is honored above you?
- How do you feel when God promotes others while you're still waiting to be blessed?
- Do you connect being valuable with being "in front", being seen, being visible at the top?

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