

no presence

Sermon Study Questions • Week of December 12, 2010

“No Presence”

Pastor Bob Botsford

Main Scripture: Matthew 2

Referenced Scripture: Genesis 3:8, Genesis 4:16, 1 Samuel 16:14, Ezekiel 10:18, Matthew 7:3-5, 1 Timothy 6:7-10, Proverbs 13:10, Acts 8:30-31, Psalm 51, Acts 3:19

OPEN:

1. What in particular spoke to you from Pastor Bob’s message?
2. Many are confused in thinking that God’s presence is an entitlement, and they can “achieve” His presence rather than “surrender” to it. How are they confused on this issue?

DIG DEEPER:

1. In **Matthew 2** we find an example of sovereignly placed circumstances being used to present God’s presence in the life of King Herod. How do you see that God has allowed circumstances and events in your own life to present His presence and get your attention?
2. It has been said that “pride kills”, as we see happens in the life of King Herod. In what way does pride blind us to our own faults (**Matthew 7:3-5**) and cause God presence to be removed?
3. In what way does pride barricade us from faith in God (**1 Timothy 6:7-10**), causing His presence to be removed?
4. How have you found pride to be the necessary ingredient in every argument (**Proverbs 13:10**), again causing God’s presence to be removed?
5. Pride keeps us busy moving the wrong way, away from God. In what way is the Ethiopian in **Acts 8:26-38** a good example of how to be moving to God, and not away from Him?

REFLECT:

1. How have you found that nothing is worse than not having the presence of God in your life?
2. In what way are you encouraged, challenged, or troubled by **Acts 3:19**?

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 3:19

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”