

Wednesday - March 11

Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10 (NRSV)

I am a people pleaser! When I was younger I gave myself an ulcer. My head would spin figuring out what to say and do to make the people around me happy. I thought if I followed what they said then life would be wonderful. This caused me to be a different person with different groups. It was exhausting. Truth. I do not even think I knew who I was. My life was headed down this path of seeking approval from people.

As I look back at this time in my life, my journey was not with God. My journey was focused on the people and the world around me. What did the world say I should act, look, and think like? I never even thought about the Lord, which is crazy, because I was raised in a Godly household. I was brought up with a relationship with Jesus and yet he never entered my mind as I was making decisions for my life.

At some point I began to get a back bone and made decisions for myself, for my journey. The decisions I was making were still about what I wanted and what the people in my life wanted for me...not God. I was not making inappropriate choices for my life. I had a good life. I ended up getting married, a mama of two and yet my life still felt like there was something missing.

I remember, as an adult, going to church to volunteer and I saw this verse on a wall. I was instantly struck. I could not move. I just stared at it for the longest time. At that moment, I realized I was still trying to seek approval of people. I was at church to volunteer and yet, I was there because I wanted it to look good. I was not doing it to serve God. He never even entered my thoughts when I decided to volunteer. I remember feeling a wave over me, there was a change. I decided at that moment that my focus would be to be a servant of God, to ask God to lead my journey. I stopped trying to seek approval from people and decided the only approval needed was God's. People are powerful. They have a way of getting into our heads and hearts and lead us away from God. It is so important that we go to God first! My journey is now led by the Lord. What should I do, think, say, act like? I go to the Lord and to His Word. There are still many moments when I find myself trying to please people, to seek their approval and then I get this feeling in my stomach, like the pain from my ulcer. It is a reminder that I do not have to be that girl that follows people anymore. I can decide to allow God to guide me in my life journey and the Lord is my leader and I am his servant.

Rebecca

Prayer: Dear Lord, there is only one You and so many people. Help us to be Your servant first, to hear Your voice first. Help us to please You and to not seek the approval of the world around us. Lead us on our journey. Amen.

