

“I Don’t Wait Anymore” chapter 7 study outline

Have you ever looked at someone else’s life and seen a freedom that you’ve never experienced? Not the kind that comes from stability or security but the kind that comes from a deep peace with God?

Do you ever wonder if you’ve given everything over to God? I mean, what does that even mean — *give Him everything*? How do you even do that? And even if we *could* do it, do you ever feel like giving everything to God is a lot to ask? That becoming poor to become rich seems a little crazy?

There are a lot of things about God that are a paradox. Here’s one — He sometimes *hurts* in order to *heal*. He also says to us in Matthew 11:30, “My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” How can something heavy and burdensome like a yoke (used to harness oxen for labor) become something that brings joy? Let’s look for the answer a couple of pages over in Matthew.

Read Matthew 13:44.

- Here we see a man who found a treasure so great that everything he had previously treasured paled in comparison. He was willing to pawn it all in a second just based on what he’d seen he could have instead. Jesus tells us that’s what the kingdom of heaven is like — so great a treasure that if you truly see it, then no sacrifice seems too great to have it.
- But let’s talk about the man’s heart. It isn’t just that he’s begrudgingly willing, or that he’s sad to lose what he owned even though he knows it is a wise decision. The passage says something radical about the man’s mindset — that he trades it all *with joy*.
- Have you ever handed everything to God with joy? Sometimes people get hung up on the literal parts of the question. (Do I actually sell everything I own? But don’t I need a couch?). In Scripture, sometimes Jesus asked that of people and sometimes He didn’t. He knew their hearts, and He knew how to point a finger straight at where their treasures really lay. (Take a moment and read Matthew 19:16-30 for a story about one man who Jesus knew had his heart wrapped up in his possessions.) The heart is where Jesus focused, looking for open hands — *real open hands* — that say “everything I want and everything I dream is Yours, God, to do with what You will. I just want You.”

Questions for discussion:

- What things are you holding onto right now that are keeping you from real freedom?
- When you think about giving God all of yourself, everything you have, everything you’ve ever dreamed of, what stirs in your heart? Is it joy?
- Have you gotten a view yet of God and His love that would invoke that kind of joy? How might you pray for God to show you? How might you invest in reading His Word and getting to know Him better?