The Hidden Ministry Of The Worshiper



In our first year of becoming Christians, my wife Elaine and I decided that everything we would do from then on would be submitted to furthering the cause of Christ. We agreed with God that we would do anything, go anywhere and pay any cost to be a part of His plan to love the world through His Church.

So, we set our course to love the Church in invisible ways – serving, praying, caring, encouraging, giving and supporting the Bride of Christ in any way we could. It was never our choice to make the ministry God enacted through us visible; it seemed, however, that God did have plans to make it more visible. To this day, we continue to set aside our need for affirmation in order to fulfill the hidden ministry of Jesus, and He can then choose to expose us or hide us according to His good pleasure.

For every leader, and every Christian for that matter, our lives are indeed the loudest instrument we have to herald the good news of Christ – louder than our words or personalities. Because our lives have both visible and hidden components to them, we must be in the business of forming and reforming our characters in the pursuit of holiness. If we aren't in that business, we have little authority to lead – we lack integrity from the inside out. We must be consistent in our pursuit of God, at every level, from devotion to action, or we abdicate our right to lead anyone anywhere. No leader is perfect, but our whole-hearted pursuit of God must be driven by an inner desire to simply glorify the God we love and serve. He may hide us in order to accomplish that.

It is my conviction that at some stage in every leader's life, they will have to literally lay down everything on the altar of God's service, including the need for affirmation. God will then reveal to them what He has called them to do in the world.

There are three ways that our hidden life of complete devotion to Christ makes its way out of us into the world:

Our Worship
Lay it all down daily. Worship is the act of laying our lives down on the altar, day in and day out, moment by moment, choosing God's plan above our personal comfort.

Our Walk
Choose character and pure devotion. Personal purity, truth in the inmost places, must characterize our life both externally and internally. To put Jesus first in our culture is to truly walk out the Kingdom of God in a self-focused world.

Our Works
Act out the Kingdom every chance you get. We don't live out an ethereal faith disconnected from real life. Faith in Jesus is integrally connected to a world that needs to be touched, healed, fed, loved and carried to the feet of Jesus.

Embrace the hidden ministry of Jesus – and you'll gain your reputation in heaven as a true minister of the gospel.

Jeremy Cook

insideworship™

Volume 49 | February 2003

Publisher
Vineyard Music Global

Editor
Dan Wilt

Copy Editor
Darren Varieur

Production Coordinator
Valerie Davis

Art Director
Markus Frehner

Inside Worship E-mail
insideworship@vmg.com

© 2003 Vineyard Music Global
All Rights Reserved

vineyardmusic.com

AUSTRALIA	1800 129 081
BENELUX	31 10 481 7060
BRAZIL	55 14 265 1373
CANADA	800 224 6891
GERMANY	06236 416 141
INDIA	91 44 374 0857
NEW ZEALAND	0800 846 927
NORDIC	46 (0)8 730 4250
SOUTH AFRICA	27 11 781 3466
SWITZERLAND	031 333 17 03
UNITED KINGDOM	44 (0)870 1200 553
UNITED STATES	800 852 VINE
VIÑA MUSIC	888 846 2365

vineyard music™