Barnett on Songwriting

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in conversation with

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Sessions 7 – 9

Session 7 Jesus isn't our "boyfriend" but he IS our *intimate friend.*

- Even in writing our simple "I Love You, God" songs, make it clear that you are worshiping Jesus. Don't leave it to people to figure out for themselves.

- The gospels are full of scripture that shows us the intimate friendship we are called to have with Jesus. The gospels of John, chapters 14 through 17 are good examples of this. While the word "boyfriend" isn't quite what we have with Jesus, it IS an intimate friendship.

- We are also the *Bride of Christ.* Paul gives us the imagery of Christ and his church as the *Bride and Groom*.

Session 8 Tips on getting inspiration for songs, and taking the next steps

- To write really good songs, write many songs.

- When you're working on a song, and then you go about your other daily activities, and the song keeps going in your head, pay attention to the "programs running in the back of your head." You will get some good ideas when you're not really trying. (Creativity research has shown this to be true).

- Songwriting involves "borrowing ideas" from all kinds of sources of information from throughout history. Sources such as the Bible, novels, a sermon, or another song, all provide ideas that we re-shape in our own words.

Session 9 Using social idioms of our day in our song lyrics

- Use social idioms of our day; words and phrases that fit our cultural setting. For instance, to describe the power of God, he can be compared to a *hurricane*.

- When these metaphors and similes are used *in combination* with basic scriptural truths of God's nature, it will communicate powerfully to the listener and worshiper.

- Use terminology that brings the worship experience into people's everyday life. Don't use these words just to "be clever" or it will come across as inauthentic.