



HIGHLANDS

HOW LOW POINTS BECOME HIGH PEAKS

3.17.24 • Craig Rees and Charles Kirby • The Delicate Dance

Bottom Line

Remaining convictionally strong but dispositionally soft and sensitive is the delicate dance every believer faces.

Key Verses

John 19:12-16; John 1:11; John 15:18-19; Matthew 10:38-39; 1 Peter 2:20-25; James 1:2-4

Discussion Questions

1. What is your emotional reaction to this passage? What are the key thoughts that strike you?
2. If conviction is driven by what we value most, what does the behavior of Pilate, the crowds, and Jesus reveal their convictions to be?
3. Contrast the convictions and actions of Pilate, the crowds, and Jesus in John 19. How does each character's value system influence their decisions?
4. Consider the subplot in John's Gospel where Jesus invites his disciples into the same rejection He faced. How does rejection play a role in the disciples' experiences, and how does it parallel with Jesus' own rejection? Finally, how willing are you to accept Jesus's invite to follow Him into suffering if that is required to do the Father's will?
5. Consider Jesus's silence during the trial. If silence is often a mark of compromise, how are we supposed to interpret Jesus's silence? How do your conclusions shape a response to the statement that people of conviction never stay quiet?
6. Jesus exemplifies a soft heart through his submissive prayer, discerning responses, and consideration of others. Which of these three is the area you are strongest in? Which of these three is the area you are weakest in?
7. Jesus consistently emphasized the greater purpose of his mission (John 18:36). How can keeping our focus on what is important to the Lord guide our convictions and enable us to endure challenges with a soft and compassionate heart?
8. Jesus, despite facing immense suffering, did not allow external factors to harden his heart. Rather, his convictions acted as a source of strength, keeping his heart flexible, compassionate, and resilient. When we struggle to embrace trials and tribulations, we can become bitter and resentful, lose the sense of empathy, become cynical, isolate ourselves, and slowly lose hope. Which of these have you experienced when going through a trial? What helped you get through it?

Notes
