

## CHAPTER 08 SUMMARY: “SONS AND DAUGHTERS”

*Seek First: How the Kingdom of God Changes Everything*, by Jeremy Treat

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### THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY

- “The kingdom of God provides us with a different way of thinking about our identity. Though the gospel our identity is received, not achieved. We are drawn into a royal story, declared to be sons and daughters of the King, and sent out as ambassadors of the kingdom. God gives us an identity that’s unshakeable” (p. 142).

#### 1. Sons and Daughters of the King

- “Through the cross, God reconciles us to himself and into his family. Even though her biological family impacts our identity, our new spiritual family can have an even greater identity shaping affect” (p. 143).

#### 2. Adopted by the King

- “He is our Father, and we are adopted as his children. Adoption not only changes our view of God, it also shapes the way we see ourselves. We are beloved children, adopted into God's royal family and given all the rights and inheritance of the Kings kids” (p. 144).
- “On the night before Jesus was betrayed, he prayed to the Father, requesting that ‘the love with which you have loved me may be in them’ (John 17:26). This is astounding! Jesus is saying that we share in the same love that the Father has for the Son, and eternal and perfect love” (p. 145).

#### 3. Access to the King

- “The Bible tells us that since we have been adopted by God, we are his children and now have unlimited access to God. We can always interrupt him. He’s never too busy for us. There’s no limit to the time that we can spend with him... we are promised limitless access to God's throne. We can enter into conversation with him freely in with full confidence that we are excepted and heard. Why? Because we know that we are approaching a ‘throne of grace.’ We know that this king rules from his throne with love and mercy” (p. 146).

#### 4. Ambassadors of the King

- “Just as Adam and Eve failed in their calling, Israel did not fulfill their role as a royal priesthood. But Jesus, the last Adam in the faithful Israel, came as a true royal priest who would bring God's blessings to the nations. And while Jesus is the ultimate priest king, he draws his people into his own identity and mission. In Christ we are a royal priesthood as well. ‘You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light’ (1 Peter 2:9-11)” (p. 147).

### AN UNSHAKEABLE IDENTITY

- “Our whole identity as Christians hangs on two small words: ‘in Christ’” (p. 148).
- “But not only are you declared to be ‘in Christ’ (2 For. 5:17), Scripture also says you have ‘Christ in you’ (Col. 1:27). Combine these two ideas and you have what theologians call the doctrine of union with Christ. It’s an idea that can change your life” (pp. 148-149).

- “Ephesians 1:3 says that by being united with Christ, ‘we have every spiritual blessing....’ The New Testament refers to being united with Christ over 250 times. You know with Christ is not just another doctor to believe; it’s a paradigm shift” (p. 149).
- “God really is raining down all his blessings, but they aren’t scattered showers forcing us to find them and collect them for our own efforts. Instead, they come to us through a single funnel, and that funnel is the person of Jesus. As long as we are with Jesus, then every spiritual blessing—redemption, forgiveness, healing, eternal life, wisdom, and everything else—comes to us through our union with Christ” (p. 149).
- “Here why this matters. If we are united to Christ—one with him—our identity is rooted not in what we can do for God, but rather in what God has done for us” (pp. 149-150).
- “In Christ, you’re defined not by your sin nor by your success, but by your Savior, and he’s unchanging. Being ‘in Christ’ is a foundation when you are in crisis. Being ‘in Christ’ is a constant when you are in transition. Being ‘in Christ’ is a refuge when you are in trouble” (p. 151).
- “In Christ, our identity is secure. When I feel like I’m not wanted, by faith I know that in Christ I am. I may not always feel righteous, but in Christ I am. We need faith to believe not only what is true about God but also to believe what God says is true about ourselves. If this royal identity is who we truly already are, then we no longer need to work at securing our identity but must learn how to live out of this identity” (p. 151).

## **BECOME WHO YOU ALREADY TRULY ARE**

- “Almost every other religion in the world says that change is about becoming what you are not.... But Christianity says something different: be who you already truly are in Christ. Because our identity is given to us by faith, we God declares us righteous in Christ, we must learn who we are and then live out of that identity. In Christ you are pure, so live purely. In Christ your light, so let your light shine. Because of grace, my identity is built not on what I do for God but on what what he has done for me. Christian growth is not a matter of changing into something you are not but is about becoming who you truly are ‘in Christ’” (p. 151).