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Favour (interview Amanda Cook)

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# Favor

I could talk about a lot of things; purity, being beautiful or managing favor. We talk about it so much, but we need to understand this.

Spirals of favor can be dangerous. People changing the course of their lives because of this. Run after it so much against the Lord's plan for their lives. Define the goodness of God by how much favor they got from him. She was like at what point do we start talking about when I came into your life.

I’ve been defined as someone having favor, but I have tried very hard not to focus on me. Because most of my 20’s were about running after success and favor. I was in a lot of circles where there were tons of influential people. The problem was that I wanted what they had and did not look at them. Favor comes in all forms, not just in people. But a lot of people have been learning about leadership and influencing the world out there.

I feel like this class could be the best class on how to manage influence.

# Bitterness

We can fall into bitterness when things don’t go our way. That is one of the biggest spirals into the demonic spiritual world. If I have favor people will want to be around me, but that is **gross**! It was always about myself and not about others.

# Communication as a child

I wrote a post card to John Mayer for the conservative party. Sent him a letter, great news! My birthday is on the day of the general election, isn't that amazing?! I was 9! Both sent me letters, don’t think they did, but their fan-mail assistent did :p I got a signed post card and a sweet letter from John Mayer, lovely that it is your birthday, but you're too young to vote! If you like to communicate and have no rules in it you can do whatever and grow into that.

# Favor and Anointing

Diana shakes hands with the lepers in a hospital. His dad saw it and it was very hard to get marketing on it. So her dad called the office and gave her a message on the head of the leprosy mission. What she has done in 5 minutes we've tried to do for 120 years. Next voice was princess Diana, what can I do for you? Excuse me!? What can I do for you? Well, you can be our patron if you'd like.

Favor opens doors, anointing keeps you effective. Could be a one moment happening, but his anointing kept it going. How to manage and steward that is important.

# Sabotaging favor

In the film industry, she flipped the other way. Fascinated by favor and they lose who they are. That is not very appealing, so she walked by a celebrity and say what sup thinking that was the way stewarding favor which was rude. Every time she sabotaged it. You need to value yourself enough so that you can carry favor. What does the message look like in your life? In the Lord’s heart! The nature of who He is, not about the gifts He gives me!

Favor and grace are the same word in the New Testament. They both must give you high standard. It starts making sure you're accountable to honor and purity! Might have favor without being pure, but I can’t tell you how much it changed it. **The Beatitudes keeps us focused on what our hearts must be towards the Lord instead of what we are to other people.**

Suddenly you can be the same like everyone else having blessing and favor. I watch students very closely, who is gifted in this area? How can I shove you into another place? If you don’t honor each other, I am looking how you are with other people. I am not going to do you a favor if you don't honor yourself. Do you value yourself enough? Do you have a crown to cast before the feet of the Lord?

# Favor not from the Lord

Some favor is not of the Lord! You can be shown favor in a season because what you started to build in your character and someone gives you an amazing opportunity and it looks like a door opening, but it is actually a wolf dressed as a lamb.

This guy has always been using his money to gain favor from women. I was a friend without using his money. How do I know whether it is from the Lord or not? The fruit!

Christ increased in favor! He didn't go looking for other influencers, they always came to Him! Knowing influencers were going to do this, the head of one of the production companies in Hollywood, the founder, and 2 employees. One of the things she said was don't offer your card, a number and how you would like to have a friendship with them. Really important they come to you, not you to them!

I’d like to stay in touch with you, can I? Yeah sure! Stewarding favor in the Church and outside the Church, there is not that big of a difference. You spend the Anointing? Doesn't mean people outside of the Kingdom culture know how to steward Anointing as well.

# Share favor!

Favor is important to share! If you don’t share anything He gives you we have a serious problem! Keep it very private, not wanting to boast. Not a name dropping thing. I thought it defined me and wanted to impress people. Even the same with Bill, but I knew that when I got a new set of interns that Bill would find someone to steward under his wing. It was Faith: "hey you know when Bill hugs me and things. Uhm is that okay, I am really worried about it stealing from you." I answered her: "Faith that is for you! That is what it's about! It is supposed to be shared! Bill has a lot of love around, Bill doing the same. I let them choose!" That is why it is so much more beautiful, look at the Lord on that. I need everyone else to celebrate it. Don't try to rob it, why you? Bill loves the British brunettes, that sucks for my housemate!

It is important that people share favor. Going through a tough time. You're doing that thing where you're isolating a little bit while you need to pull on the favor. So text Bill and ask him about it.

# Loving myself

The more I love myself, the more Bill came into my life. When someone carries himself really well and anointing they recognize that's somebody who does that too. If you're like that with you, you probably do the with me. Something I really love about all the people in my life having more favor than me. Amanda and I talked about book sells or album sales. One of the biggest thing that make big influencers is because of humor. Dann Farrelly can disable an environment in this, the glue keeping the people together. His humor is fascinating to watch in a meeting.

# Who will you share it with?

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Who are you going to share it with? Not: look at me go! Her first book deal, I used to have a point in my life where I wanted more influence in my life. Few more likes, that is nice! I could feel the Lord was like: “If you could just get rid of that it would be great!”

# All about God

One of the things I loved about Amanda is that all these things are happening, but she is just talking about the message of the Lord. All of our nights if it is not just insta-stories and fun. Have this journey about talking about the facets of the Lord and what His face is like. Seeing through our personal relationships what it is like. Side effects are poetry, songs, but it is not the prime focus.

Some of you might think if I do the book I will get the favor, not saying that is your forethought but it should be that you had to look out for that! More fascinated by intimacy with Him and loved being with God. All of a sudden nothing really mattered, didn't really touch the sides.

# Strong minds and soft hearts

The Lord is not an idiot, He knows when you're being serious and really have let it go instead of pretending to let it go. One of the things I think is really important is having a tough mind and a tender heart, too many times we shift it and think we are going to gain favor in that way.

Martin Luther King was really big on this, he thought because of that reason alone, too easily influenced by the wrong people, wrong thinking amalgamated by fear and not the Lord’s heart. **The soft-minded man always fears change.  He feels security in the status quo, and he has an almost morbid fear of the new.  For him, the greatest pain is the pain of a new idea.** (Strength and love)

# Combative vs confrontative

If we as believers become combative instead of confrontative we reduce our influence group. Alumni want to get favor from that group, I want to gain influence, the doors are opening. But they think they will gain favor by saying yes to them all the time. But that world loves counter-cultural, how many of you are done with relationships that never want to have an honest conversation? Why do we not want to have confrontation in a kind way?

There have been times where we have been quite redeeming, just because revival is kicking off doesn't mean that we don’t honor it. If you don’t feel honored and treasured by us, what is the point coming to your church anyway?

# Humility in favour

Be humble in your favor! Entitlement is the biggest shut down to this. You're still defining yourself by your favor. I won’t give you more because your responsibility will go through this. Don’t talk about favor, why did we have to say that? What was the reason for that? It is the secret place! Not for telling other people!

Blogging because I cared about the message! Figure out your voice, message and figure out if you say something different! No one wants to hear the same thing twice! When I got the book deal I got in my car and we talked about it. When you get more favor it is because He wants to pour out more on you, give it to you. One of the most beautiful times was me and the Lord, conversation with Him. Worship of everything that He is and everything that He manifests.

The favor is for Him to enjoy with you, it is to glorify His name, but He loves doing things together with you! He makes me great! If I don’t involve God in my writing it is really clear! One of the things about all of the pastors in Second year is a reverence for the Lord over the fear of man towards each other.

# Be loyal in your friendship

Don’t repeat your conversations with them to other people, please be confidential! He was one of the only ones who didn't sell his stories. I don’t know until this day stories that were told about them. They really care about this, not raising it as a flag of things that happened. I am pretty loyal, if anyone publicly condemns a friend of mine it is crazy.

Two of my friends. I am not going to read it, but why would you publicly dishonor someone instead of having a personal conversation. I hope you chose kindness over being right.

I favor truth and kindness, even if that person had done a major fall I will have a conversation behind closed doors. I don’t think the Lord will give you favor with anyone unless you are able to confront them!

A conversation with a famous producer one of her heroes. Getting along really well, but after 20 minutes she is driven into a corner and says she's doing ministry school at a church. The man says: "I really hope it sorts out all your problems out for you" and walks off. This hurt her so much! She ran up to her bedroom and said ouch that sucked, we were getting along so well! God said: "Yeah thank you for not making anyone heroes anymore. Thank you for making me your hero. I will redeem this."

Cut to this year November, I go to a party and meet her partner. They had a very public split 15 months ago. They spend most of the night talking about love, relationship. she used to be an atheist and turned agnostic. She is the one that made him famous.

# What can you bring to the table?

People care about what you can bring to the table, they are hungry for the Lord. You got a gift, they see it in your character. When you intentionally say you’re going to do something you will do it. Instantly the easiest way to lose trust. Every day little things, not a striving, but an I honor Your care Lord! You never back down on a promise you’ve made.

# Befriend influencers when they’re down

Don’t befriend influencers when they're on the up, befriend them when the favor is being lost. Flying economy, strangers would come up to them and say why are you flying economy? A fantastic tv show 20 years ago, typecast. Favor doesn't stick with you all the time. Be alright with the seasons you’re not getting it. Maybe because of sabotaging it or not managing ourselves.

David and Saul, David was not interjecting into Saul’s anointing. Conversationalists perhaps?

## Amanda cook question and answers

# What did you do with increased favor?

When you got increased favor what changed you? I let myself go, pajamas in public. The conversation about favor intrigues me. More than I even think these thoughts. The intrigue by David’s life, the different seasons. One of the things I adore about him is the measure of wonder he lived with, that he viewed everyone as the anointed of God.

David lived in the mystery of God being God and I am not.

You think now-now is the moment instead of the intrigue of living in the fear and wonder of God and seeing in part. Treating people with honor like that. The brothers saw something on him, which they didn't like. Why can’t I be happy with this person? Probably because of the anointing that is on them. Some of the stories in the Bible, what if the brothers weren’t like that? I feel like I have a word for you, I see you singing in front of millions :p

They love it when people are real with them. Do you shake? :p

# Collaboration

You collaborate with a lot of anointed people, is there a pressure about we have to do better than we did before? They don't have anything to lose because it is just a hunger for favor. When you constantly have to do better sometimes it is hard

Pressure, I feel like I can't write under pressure. I would feel like I crawl into a hole and cry. When it comes to writing for a project, to me feels backward. It feels constructive, projects and records it is not the point! Pressing record is something meaningful that is happening, not just something different.

Collaborative efforts are different, comes out of hiding pressing record on something that has happened. Regarding stewarding favor with people, I am like an act taco. I suck at networking, never been good at striking up conversation. I rely on my husband, who is she? Didn’t have one conversation with each other.

Grand irony is; go celebrate each other's anointing and I am in the corner. The flip side, I find it fun to find the golden thread and celebrate diversity of personalities. Anointing has a personality and expression through this.

# Finding the personality of the Anointing

You are the most brilliant of finding the best story in every person. The moment we think about it too much we lose it. How is it that everyone loves you? you are a great singer and anointed person, but there is an affection kindness and loyalty towards you that is like no other. The way you've done community and family has taken my breath away, never being too big for your boots taught, challenged or confronted. Run up to people that confront her.

**What is a practical side of this? How do you position yourself before the favor comes?**

I am very nervous about people living in isolation and everything. Does favor come with obedience? Pure and more favor doesn't take place. But if you have a community of people and every relationship question that challenge you is important. Ones that won’t say yes to you when you're doing really well.

The answer is in your question that reveals the heart. The heart of the Father is the final frontier, not a moment of glory to glory, He holds all things together. It is never really a question of looking at each other less, but having a deeper revelation. Never been about seeing myself too small, He is really good at showing off! Where were you? All of a sudden instant perspective. Not managing your humility, it is humble to be a human. I am a human and tucked into God.

**What is the best way to clear up the mess after running after favor?**

There have been times where people have lost their ministry overnight because they spent so long trying to defend themselves or not really having an honest approach. So scared about the pain they had caused because they won't get back into a high place of power.

Times where somebody outside of Bethel has fallen, trying to attach themselves again. Students, please don't associate yourself with Bethel in front of the media. Always looking for trust, do you have something to say to me and they didn't say sorry that is really bad!

I am not looking for an apology, but if the posture of the heart has recognized it. Fallen and feel the disappointment, I am so sorry I don’t know how to make it up to you. I am sorry that I did that. When you are younger it didn't feel like this, but I need you to know what it feels like. What are we going to do about it, and why did we do it? Or no you’re fine!

Important that this happens! Most of the time we want to jump over pain and don't look at the reality of what happened. A period of sitting in it. He had to face what he had done. If it wasn't for the secret place it would've happened on his own accord. If your secret place isn't bringing you there people will.

**How have you each stewarded the favor of God through the years?**

That is the beauty of the secret place, we can do anything in there. Whether it is celebration or talking about it. So moved He would even let me, because I've gone through a wild journey that didn't deserve this. I never forget that or get too big for my boots. If I do I have Bill, Gabe, and Kris in my life. Somewhere you thought the favor was deserved by you, but it is always for God! I am going to thank the Person who gave it to me!

You play for an audience of One. I needed to overcome a lot of pride to get over there. Wanting to stay away from the judgemental eyes is hard. Her mom would tell me, just play your heart to the One. I wouldn't even practice playing the piano with my family in the house. I was hiding from something than hiding in Someone.

Feeling of being tucked into the Godness of God as only become immensely more grounding and real to me. It gives a freedom with that, this too will pass. Not a cynical way, but everything will pass. A real enjoyment in that! I was afraid of success, because of Canada being cut down to stay humble. Equally afraid of failure as success. I did a record and it won this record, o my Gosh I am so afraid of this moment. I ended up cornered by a newspaper 20 years old. Can you wrap up your life now, you're good you’ve accomplished it all now. I said a joke: I am going to be awesome. Then they printed it front page, I got calls the next day. The worst best worst thing that has ever happened to me. I wanted to quit everything and hide.

When you've been given a place opportunity or moment I was so afraid of getting it wrong, the plane took off. The journey of pastoring I would see Gabe and walk by him super fast. He wanted to run after me, but I was already killing myself and he didn't have any place of giving constructive feedback. I’ve learned something about myself. I am not going to really grow if I critique myself this much. Haven’t left any room, one of the most frequent things in my life.