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Sacred Smallness

6. Sacred Smallness

The author reflects on leaving a path toward 'Christian fame' to live a hidden life in a small Greek village. He argues that God measures our lives by the heart, not by size, visibility, or accomplishment. Both seen and hidden lives can be equally holy and fruitful.

Key takeaways

- Chasing 'Christian fame'—platforms, followers, a name in lights—is often pride disguised as pursuing God's glory.
- Entitlement here means feeling you deserve more because of family, position, or gifts; that is pride, not the promises we genuinely have in Christ.
- God is not a performance-based Father. We are already approved and loved as His children; faith pleases Him, not the size of our lives.
- The true motive is fruitfulness, not success—and the real question is 'Am I abiding in the Vine?' Abiding can lead to crowds or to a few, and both are holy.

- Those with 'hidden' callings—parents at home, teachers, doctors—are not 'just' anything; abiding in Jesus, they have huge Kingdom impact.
- Amy Carmichael's example: offering mundane, unglamorous work to Christ transforms it into a holy task done in 'Calvary love.'
- Being hidden in God's presence silences the storms of life; humility and servanthood are the way to truly live.

Passages worth keeping

“The truth is, aiming to be at the bottom is the only way to live at the top.”

Sums the chapter's reversal of worldly ambition into humility.

“Instead of striving for famous lives, let our hearts be set on living faithful lives.”

The chapter's central redirection—faithfulness over fame.

How it connects

Joanna set beside Esther makes the point concrete: two verses or a whole book, both were fully pleasing to God because approval depends on the heart, not the length of one's record.

Scripture referenced

- **Hebrews 11:6** -- Faith, not the size of our lives, is what pleases God.
- **Philippians 3:8-9** -- Paul counts all accomplishments as garbage next to knowing Christ.
- **1 Samuel 16:7** -- God looks at the heart, not outward appearance.
- **Luke 8:3; 24:10** -- Joanna—a faithful, little-known disciple present at the resurrection.
- **Psalms 84:10** -- Better to be a doorkeeper in God's house—nearness to God over status.
- **Colossians 3:1-4** -- Our real life is hidden with Christ in God; set sights on heaven.