



A Kingdom Call - Session 5: Presence Over Platform

by John Himmelberger

Intro

In a world obsessed with visibility and applause, this session calls us back to what matters most—intimacy with Jesus. True influence isn't found in public platforms but in private surrender. "Presence Over Platform" invites you to rediscover the secret place, where roots grow deep, motives are refined, and lasting fruit begins. You'll explore the power of hiddenness, the necessity of pruning, and the enduring impact of abiding in Christ. If you've ever felt pressure to perform, this teaching will recenter you in the quiet strength that flows from presence, not performance. God prunes to multiply, not to punish.

My Intention and Assumptions

I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be 'salt' and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

About the Author

John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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Session 5: Presence Over Platform

Scriptures:

- John 15:4-5 "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."
 - Matthew 6:6 "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."
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Focus:

The Kingdom advances not through human visibility, but through divine intimacy. In an age obsessed with platforms, Jesus is inviting His people back to the *secret place*—where identity is formed, roots are deepened, and fruitfulness is born.

When we prioritize His presence, it reshapes:

- Our ambitions (from visibility to intimacy)
 - Our motives (from self-promotion to Spirit-promotion)
 - Our endurance (from momentary bursts to lasting fruit)
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Topic 1: Hiddenness — The Secret Place is the Source Place

Introduction:

The unseen life with God is the root system that supports any visible fruit. Public impact without private intimacy is spiritual collapse waiting to happen.

A. Hiddenness Builds Resilience

- What's formed in secret sustains you in public.
- Platforms can expose what presence hasn't built.
- Hiddenness protects you from superficiality and pride.

Scripture:

- Matthew 6:6 "Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen."

Teaching Point:

Your hidden life with God is your most valuable public asset.

B. Hiddenness Tests and Purifies Motives

- In secret, there's no audience but Him—no applause, no validation, only real surrender.
- Hiddenness burns away the need for human approval.

Scripture:

- Psalm 139:23-24 "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts."

Teaching Point:

The secret place purifies the public place.

Visual Summary Flow:

Hiddenness → Heart Purity → Strengthened Roots → Authentic Fruit

Mini-Activation: Love the Secret Place**Step 1: Reflection**

- Ask the Lord:
 - "Father, do I value the secret place with You above everything else?"
 - "Where are You inviting me back to deeper intimacy?"

Step 2: Declarations

I treasure the secret place.

I build my life in the unseen with You.

I reject the need for human validation.

I choose Presence over platform.

Step 3: Group Discussion**Question:**

What have you learned in seasons of hiddenness that shaped your visible life?

Topic 2: Pruning — Fruitfulness Over Fame

Introduction:

In the Kingdom, growth is not measured by size but by health.
God prunes us not to punish, but to multiply real fruit.

A. Pruning is Proof of Growth

- God prunes fruitful branches so they can bear more fruit.
- Pruning seasons refine focus, increase capacity, and deepen dependency.

Scripture:

- John 15:2 "Every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

Teaching Point:

If you're being pruned, it's because you're bearing fruit, not failing.

B. Fruitfulness is About Lasting Impact, Not Momentary Fame

- Flashy success can fade; true fruit remains.
- Jesus measures results differently than culture does: He looks for love, obedience, transformation.

Scripture:

- John 15:16 "I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

Teaching Point:

Kingdom fruit isn't fast, it's faithful.

Visual Summary Flow:

Growth → Pruning → Greater Fruit → Lasting Impact

Mini-Activation: Embrace Pruning

Step 1: Reflection

- Ask the Lord:
 - "Father, where are You pruning me right now?"
 - "Help me see pruning as preparation, not punishment."

Step 2: Declarations

I welcome Your pruning, Father.

I trust You to cut away what hinders real fruit.

I choose faithfulness over fame.

I live for lasting impact, not fleeting applause.

Step 3: Group Discussion

Question:

What's one area where you've experienced God's pruning that later produced greater fruit?

Final Closing for Session 5

Landing Thought:

We were made to abide, not to perform.

Lasting influence flows from intimate connection with Jesus, not public recognition by people.

Commissioning Blessing:

I bless you to dwell deeply in the secret place.

May you find joy in hiddenness, strength in pruning, and satisfaction in abiding.

May your life overflow with fruit that remains and glorifies your Father in Heaven.