

# The Sacred Cycle

Many years ago I listened as a speaker used the four words Acceptance, Sustenance, Significance and Achievement as a roadmap for a talk about joy. I cannot recall the name of the speaker or much about the talk except that the speaker called it The Cycle of Grace and referenced Frank Lake. Over the years, I have used those four words to develop what I call The Sacred Cycle. The graphic and summary below is the result of that work.

- Joe Chambers

## Achievement

His identity settled, daily practices established as habits to sustain him, and the significance of this lifestyle pointing people to the Kingdom of God---Jesus achieved. He achieved more in his 3 years of public life than anyone in the history of the world.

Or as the Apostle John put it in John 21:25, Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

The trajectory of Jesus' life always flowed from Acceptance then Sustenance then Significance towards Achievement.

## Significance

Because His identity was settled as the Beloved and the practices that helped him to hear that heavenly voice, Jesus began to engage in ministry that pointed people to the Kingdom of God. His purpose was being accomplished and always flowed from his core identity as the Beloved of God.

## Acceptance

At Jesus' baptism the Father speaks words of grace and unconditional acceptance before Jesus had accomplished any ministry. Up to this point in his earthly life, Jesus had taken care of his household in Nazareth, engaged in typical Jewish faith-practices, and continued his earthly father's family trade as a carpenter. Jesus was accepted as the Beloved before he accomplished anything noteworthy.

## Sustenance

After His baptism Jesus went into the wilderness - He engaged in practices that would create the internal space for the voice from Heaven, that called him the Beloved, to echo in his soul. Practices like silence, solitude, prayer, fasting, and meditating on Scripture.