

RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Lesson 6

Introduction – I remember reading several years ago **Paul’s cry: “I want to know Christ” (Phil 3:10)**, and thinking: “If he was still crying out to know Christ after planting several churches, having heavenly visions, writing much of the New Testament; how much more do I need to make that my cry. Paul understood the beginning of our vision statement – That everything else of importance “*springs from an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ*”. In this class we will examine the following points regarding relationship with Jesus...

- How This Is Even Possible (Without Certain Death)
- How We Enter Into An On-going Relationship
- How We Continue in An On-going Relationship

PHIL 3:8 – “WHAT IS MORE, I CONSIDER EVERYTHING A LOSS COMPARED TO THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF KNOWING CHRIST JESUS MY LORD...”

1. HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

Mark 15:37 – “Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And **the curtain in the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.”*

A. OPEN ACCESS

Heb 4:16 – “Let us then **approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

Heb 10:22 – “Let us **draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.”*

- Ill of “Esther”

B. OPEN HEAVENS

Eph 1:19-22a/2:6 – “19That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and **seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21far above all rule and authority, power, and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in this present age but also in the one to come. 22And God placed all thing under his feet ... **for the church** .. 6And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.**”*

Mt 6:10 – “your kingdom come, your will be done **on earth as it is in heaven.”*

- Helps if we are “seeing” from “heavenly places” where we’re seated
- We have the “resources of heaven” at our disposal

C. OPEN RELATIONSHIP

**John 15:15 – “I know longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”*

Gal 4:6 – “Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.**”*

- Analogy of “Parents”
- Analogy of “Bridegroom/Bride”
- Must have this “close relationship” for the coming days

2. HOW DO WE ENTER INTO AN ON-GOING RELATIONSHIP?

**THE THREE ITEMS IN THE HOLY PLACE ARE THE KEY...*

A. THE BREAD OF PRESENCE → THE WORD

Exodus 25:30 – “And you shall set the **bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly.”*

Mt 4:4 – “Man does not live on bread alone, but on **every word that comes from mouth of God.”*

B. ALTAR OF INCENSE → PRAYER & WORSHIP

Ex 30:1,6-7 – “You shall make an **altar on which to burn incense. ... And you shall put it in front of the veil ... where I will meet with you. ... Every morning ... at twilight, he shall burn it...”*

Rev 5:8 – “The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. ... and they were holding golden bowls full of **incense, which are the **prayers** of the saints.”*

C. LAMP & OIL → HOLY SPIRIT

Ex 27:20 – “You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you **pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a **lamp** may regularly be set up to burn*

Mt 25:1-4 – “Then the Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their **lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took **no oil** with them, but the wise took flasks of **oil** with their lamps.”*

3. HOW DO WE CONTINUE IN AN ON-GOING RELATIONSHIP? (PRACTICAL)

Mt 28:19,20 – “Therefore, go and make **disciples ... teaching them to **obey**.”*

John 8:31 – “If you **hold to my teaching, you are really my **disciples**.”*

A. DISCIPLINE (v LEGALISM)

1 Cor 9:25-27 – “Everyone who competes in the games goes into **strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, **I beat my body and make it my slave** so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”*

2 Cor 5:14, 15 – “For **Christ love compels us ... that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”*

- Buffet My Body v Buffet My Body
- Fast & Pray v Pray fast
- Discipline: Spirit-controlled (telling my body what to do)
- Legalism: Doing it to be “accepted”
- Discipline: Doing it because we are accepted, out of great love

B. DAILY

**Exodus 25:30 – “And you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly.”*

Ex 30:1,6-7 – “You shall make an altar on which to burn incense. ... where I will meet with you. ... **Every morning ... at twilight, he shall burn it...”*

Ex 27:20 – “You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you **pure beaten olive oil for the **light**, that a **lamp** may regularly be set up to burn*

- Ill of “Manna” (*Ex 16:4, 16-21)
- **Ex 16:4, 16, 19-21 – 4“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. ... 16Each one is to gather as much as he needs. ... 19No one is to keep any of it until morning. 20However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. ... 21Each morning everyone gathered as much as he needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away.”*

C. DETAILS

- **HAVE A PLAN – “Failure to plan is planning to fail”**
- **BE REALISTIC**
- **ADVANTAGES OF “MORNING” / “PRAYER WALKS”**
- **WORD** – One Year Bible Example
- **PRAYER /WORSHIP** – The Lord’s Prayer Example
- **HOLY SPIRIT** – *Act 2:4 cf 4:31 – Filled, filled and ...

D. DANGER! DANGER!

Mt 25:1-4 – “Then the Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their **lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took **no oil** with them, but the wise took flasks of **oil** with their lamps.”*

- **VIRGINS:** Righteousness of Christ
- **LAMPS:** Ministry (not Salvation) – “Let your light shine...”
- **OIL:** Holy Spirit
- **DON’T LET YOUR LAMP (MINISTRY) OUTPACE YOUR OIL!**

E. DESIRE → DISCIPLINE → DELIGHT

Mt 22:37-38 – “You shall **love the Lord ... This is the **first and great** commandment.”*

1 John 4:19 – “We **love because He first **loved** us.”*

2 Cor 5:14, 15 – “For **Christ love compels us ... that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”*

Song of Songs 4:16 – “Let my **lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.”*

- **THIS IS THE NATURAL PROGRESSION**

- A LOVE RELATIONSHIP (BRIDEGROOM / BRIDE)

CONCLUSION:

IT ALL SPRINGS FROM “AN EVER-DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS”...

- 1st COMMANDMENT → 2nd COMMANDMENT
- D-201: PERSONAL → CORPORATE (CHURCH)

I ANSWER THE CALL

Author Unknown

I answer the call – hearing Your voice
Down on my knees – I make the choice
To humble myself and pray.

No matter the cost – I’ll pray the price
Lord I will give – the sacrifice
To humble myself and pray.

**I will pray. Seek Your face.
I will touch You with my worship.**

**I will pray. Seek Your face.
When I touch You virtue flows.**

Healing my soul.