

ACC MESSAGE FOR MAY 5th 2019

My title this morning centers around these two words

SOMETHING OR SOMEONE

Seeking **SOMEONE**, contrasted with seeking **SOMETHING**

- ❖ **TODAY**, I want to draw our attention to the **WHO** in our lives as a priority over the **WHAT**
- ❖ AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST I want to present THE IMPORTANCE OF FOCUSING ON THE **SOMEONE** IN OUR LIVES
- ❖ **SEEKING TO KNOW THE WHO OF OUR SALVATION LIFE / EXPERIENCE** – more than just the what.
- ❖ SO OFTEN **THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON** IN OUR LIVES IS EASILY OVERLOOKED, IN THE MIDST OF THE PROMINENCE OF **OUR NEEDS**, I.E. **those things** that we need just to be able to get through with life's challenges.

YES, THINGS (those things that we need) ARE important for our lives – BUT as we grow & mature in Christ there is a **PROGRESSIVE TRANSITIONING TOWARDS SOMEONE.**

- ▶ There is **A MOVING towards** experiencing **a more intimate knowledge of the PERSON** of our heavenly Father and Jesus his son.
- ▶ **Of KNOWING THE PERSON; - compared** with knowing **ABOUT** him.
- ▶ **A CHANGE IN EMPHASIS – OF KNOWING CHRIST AS a PERSON (as SOMEONE)**

PRAYERS as an indicator?

- ❖ TOO OFTEN PRAYERS ARE **CENTERED** AROUND **THE SOMETHING, THE THINGS** WE NEED; OUR **PROVISION**; OUR **DELIVERANCE** ETC; BUT OFTEN AT THE NEGLECT OF **THE SOMEONE**.
- ❖ PRAYER IS MEANT TO BE MORE THAN **JUST ASKING**; IT IS ALSO MEANT FOR **FELLOWSHIP** AND **COMMUNION** WITH OUR LORD.
- ❖ ITS ABOUT DISCOVERING **THE PERSON OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** AND KNOWING HIM MORE INTIMATELY

KEEPING THE BALANCE - in our prayers

- KEEPING THE BALANCE BETWEEN **THE WHO** AND **THE WHAT**.
- PRAYERS SHOULD BE INCLUSIVE OF BOTH **THE SOMEONE**, AND **THE SOMETHING**
- **INCLUSIVE OF THE PERSON OF CHRIST** as well as **THE THINGS** THAT WE NEED.

- THEY REQUIRE THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN **THE PERSON** AND **THE PROVISION**
- ONE SHOULD NOT BE AT THE EXCLUSION OF THE OTHER

WHAT ARE OUR PRAYERS LIKE?

- HOW ARE OUR PRAYERS **STRUCTURED** AND ARRANGED?
- WHAT DO THEY CONTAIN?
- ARE THEY AN EXERCISE THAT ACKNOWLEDGES **THE PROVIDER** (the someone) AS WELL AS **THE PROVISION** (the something)?

- ▶ TO SEEK **THE GIFT** WHILE FAILING TO RIGHTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE **THE GIVER**, WILL ONLY **HINDER US** FROM PROGRESSIVELY **KNOWING HIM** MORE INTIMATELY.

Hosea 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth. KJV

- ▶ DO OUR PRAYERS **GIVE RIGHTFUL PLACE TO THE PERSON** AND **THE PERSONALITY OF THE PROVIDER**?
 - HIS **NATURE**, HIS **CHARACTER** AND WHAT HE IS REALLY **LIKE**?

▶ **HOW MUCH OF OUR PRAYERS ARE SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TOWARDS THE PERSON OF CHRIST, TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER?**

- DO THEY GIVE RIGHTFUL PLACE TO THE **PERSON, WHO** IS THE PROVIDER?
- DO OUR PRAYERS MOSTLY FOCUS ON **THE PROVISION** AT THE NEGLECT OF **THE PROVIDER, EVEN IF UNINTENTIONAL.**

▶ **DO OUR PRAYERS PROGRESSIVELY DRAW US TO A CLOSER UNDERTANDING AND EVER-INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OF OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD?**

▶ **HE IS MORE THAN JUST A PROVIDER, - SO HAVE WE DISCOVERED HIS PERSON, HIS HEART, HIS NATURE, HIS SPENDOR & HIS LOVELINESS?**

- ▶ **KNOWING CHRIST AS a PERSON (as someone) is so very important.**

EXAMPLE – The woman and the alabaster box of ointment.

- ❖ **THE DISCIPLES WERE MORE FOCUSED ON THE POOR THAN THEY WERE ON JESUS.**
 - **CONTRASTED WITH THE WOMAN WHO WAS FOCUSED ON JESUS - THE PERSON.**

- ❖ THIS REFLECTED **THE MIND SET** OF THE DISCIPLES which is reflective of **the mind set** of many Christians, which is more focused on **SOMETHING** rather than on **SOMEONE**
 - ❖ The disciples were more focused on what can **BE MEASURED, QUANTIFIED and DISPLAYED**; i.e. **shown** as a result of efforts performed
- ▶ **BUT ACTS OF PURE LOVE AND DEVOTION CANNOT BE MEASURED OR DETERMINE THEIR WORTH (value)**
 - ▶ **FOR THIS LADY THE PERSON JESUS WAS OF MORE IMPORTANCE THAN OTHER THINGS PRIORITY HE SOMEONE – WAS OF MORE IMPORTANCE– EVEN THE POOR**

KNOWING HIM more perfectly is the key to my message today

Knowing him

Philippians 3:10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ESV

We Know him

1 John 2:3 The Test of Knowing Him 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. NKJV

Given understanding TO know HIM

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. NKJV

Knowing WHOM I have believed

2 Timothy 1:12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet **I am not ashamed**, **because I know whom I have believed**, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. NIV

“Fathers” know him WHO is from the beginning
Not novices – only those who are more focused on the person of God instead of his acts

1 John 2:13 I am writing to you, fathers, **because you know him who is from the beginning**. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. ESV

HE IS ALTOGETHER LOVELY

Altogether = in every way and circumstance
HE IS lovely

Song of Solomon 5:16 His mouth is sweetness itself;

he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem. NIV

- **Loveable in every way (TLB)**
 - **He is altogether desirable (ESV)**
 - **He is desirable in every way (NLT)**
 - **Everything about him delights me, thrills me through and through! The Message)**
- **Only a person WHO HAS some intimate insight and knowledge of the one loved, can give expression to this kind of devotion.**
- ALLTOGETHER LOVELY:**
- **Lovely in every circumstance in life.**

- **Lovely in the midst of tragedy and sorrow.**
 - **Lovely ALWAYS, EVEN amongst our unanswered questions and seemingly unanswered prayers.**
- ▶ **Only from a person who has an understanding of His PERSON, CHARACTER, NATURE and of WHO HE IS.**
 - ▶ **That kind of expression of love and devotion CAN ONLY COME FROM someone who has an intimate knowledge of THE PERSON they love.**

APPLICATION:

- ▶ **FOR US TO BE ABLE to give expression to that kind of devotedness TO OUR LORD JESUS we would need to have known him in a CLOSER and more PERSONAL way.**
- ▶ **FOR US WE ARE ABLE;**
 - **TO KNOW HIM in that way – even in the midst of the evil and wickedness that surrounds us in this present world;**
 - **TO KNOW HIM even in those events that have harmed and affected us, for which WE DO NOT have answers.**

- ▶ **Only the person WHO KNOWS CHRIST AFTER THIS MANNER can truly say – He is altogether lovely –**
 - **everything about him delights me –**
 - **there is nothing about him that causes me to doubt his loveliness, or beauty;**
 - **in relation to both in his person or his actions, (i.e. what he does or appears not to do).**

- ▶ **ONLY A PERSON who has had some personal INSIGHT into the PERSON OF CHRIST,**
 - **into his CHARACTER,**
 - **into his NATURE,**
 - **into WHO and WHAT He IS,****CAN possibly GIVE EXPRESSION TO THAT TRUTH.**

- ▶ **BUT IT IS what God has planned FOR US and that we continue to press towards KNOWING HIM more intimately.**

▶ **LET US EACH PERSONALLY MAKE A DECISION TO DO THAT THIS MORNING.**