

KNOW JESUS

January 7, 2018 | Pastor Randy Remington

Family on Mission = We are a family that helps people know, love and serve Jesus.

As followers of Jesus, we are not meant to be isolated or out there on our own. We are in a family, his family. In scripture we even see that at the beginning of the new age will be a huge family meal.

At B4, we intentionally do things together, children's and youth ministries, discipleship groups, baby dedication's, etc. We do these in small groups...together. The goal of our church family is to know, love and serve Jesus.

To know Jesus, (God) is truly a priority in scripture. God is continually inviting us into his presence.

This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:23-25)

This is our life long quest, to know him and to know Jesus is to know God in all his fullness.

We all know that it is one thing to be introduced to someone, but we're talking about really knowing a person. We come to understand that with God there is always more, so much more.

We learn from scripture that "knowing" someone is a very intimate word. We see in the Old Testament the word being used in relation to husbands and wives in intimate settings. The word literally means; "full exposure and acceptance".

As humans, we often wonder if they really knew me will they still love me or want me? This idea is not just about being near, it is about intimacy, not proximity.

Jesus told us that there will be people who will stand before Him and make their case based on what they did. His answer reveals and teaches a lot, ***"I never knew you"***.

Peter and John come across a man that had been crippled since birth. An undeniable miracle happens that causes them to get arrested; let's read about what the religious rulers observed:

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

They talked about Jesus with such clarity and boldness, they bore the mark of Jesus, ***"these men had been with Jesus."*** These same people were baffled when they heard Jesus speak:

The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?" (John 7:15)

There is a limit to academic ascent; we are thankful for those believers who have given themselves to this area. But an important distinction needs to be made; sin began with knowledge outside of God. It was the "tree of knowledge" that plunged mankind into sin.

We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up." Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God. (1 Corinthians 8:1-3)

We never want to be centered on intellectual knowledge, but rather living in a dynamic relationship with Jesus. As pastor Randy said, ***"To know Jesus is to know truth, because truth is a person."***

But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name." (Acts 4:14-17)

They couldn't deny the miracle; it was walking around in front of them. Instead they denied the source and power of the miracle. This threatened their position, their control.

...having a form of godliness but denying its power. (2 Timothy 3:5a).

Characteristics of fellowship with Jesus:

Passionate Pursuit

Angels are created beings that will live forever. There are those who rebelled against God with Lucifer, there are the majority who love and worship God.

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:7-11)

Paul was a very educated man; he had spent his life studying. He tells us that he counted this and everything he had attained as “rubbish”, (horse manure) compared to **“the knowledge of Christ Jesus”**.

It is wise to evaluate our relationship with Jesus; we can be ascending upward or descending or we can be plateaued. You are as close to Jesus as you want to be. You will exist at the lowest level of willingness. Paul along with Peter and John understood that our relationship with our Lord exist because it's a priority. They understood that all the law and the prophets point to the living word...Jesus.

Joyful Witness

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:18-20)

Joy should be evident in our lives if we are growing in the knowledge of Jesus. This didn't need to be manufactured, listen to Peter and John; **“we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”**

Expectant Faith

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God...Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. (Acts 4:23-24, 29)

Transformed Life

...This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” (1 John 2:5-6)

If you were going to be arrested for being a Christian, what evidence would there be? Because we know and love and Jesus there should be some distinction in our lives!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Looking at page one of our notes what are your thoughts as you read “Family on Mission”? Also what does it mean to be part of His family?
2. After reading our Jeremiah 9 passage on page one, (and following notes) describe what does it means to “know” somebody, what does it mean to know Jesus (God)? What does this quote mean to you: “to know Jesus is to know truth, because truth is a person”?

3. Randy listed, 4 characteristics of fellowship with Jesus. Define each of them and read the accompanying verse.
 - a) Passionate Pursuit
 - b) Joyful witness
 - c) Expectant faith
 - d) Transformed life

