

Knowing Him Past The Scriptures Part 1

I want to begin with just a personal story and then I would like to address some of the truth in relation to it. It relates to Albert, who passed away some years ago. He was a very special brother in Holland and I won't tell you the whole story of how we got connected with them but to be honest with you, the fellowship there was a bit legalistic, mainly due to Albert. But as we came, the Lord moved and he and I became close friends. And then, after a period of time, he developed Parkinson's disease. And it got worse and worse and it even started affecting his memory. And so one of the trips I was there, it had gotten really bad and we were sitting in the same chairs in his living room that we had sat in for many trips that I had made to Holland. And no one was in the room and he said, "Randy, I need you to pray something for me." And I said, "Sure Albert, whatever's on your heart." He teared up and he said, "This disease is making me where I can't remember the Word, the scripture and the things that the Lord has shared with me. It's affected my mind where I can't remember." Then he just broke down and started crying, because he loves Jesus. And he said, "You can't imagine how horrible this is..." if your whole life is involved with the Lord like his was. So I prayed for him and I've never forgotten that. And we were still able to make some trips there before he passed. And I would always share the scripture with him and I would always share Jesus, we would always talk about the Lord. And he would come alive because his core was that, but he just couldn't maintain all of that.

I want to go over some scriptures that I did in a blog a couple of weeks ago, but I'm going to give it a different angle. And the blog that I did was really about Jesus' heart and I think the name of it was "How To Give Jesus Rest." I want to use the same scriptures, but now I want to talk about our heart. Turn with me to Luke 21:37, 38, "*And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives. And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.*" I'm not going to repeat the blog but in the blog we really emphasized the fact that, in the day time He's in the temple and He's teaching. So there are people and the people have come to the temple and they have come to hear the Word of God, from Jesus. And then at night, it says He went out and abode in the Mount of Olives and it doesn't say His disciples went with Him and it doesn't say He went there to pray. They all went to their homes and He was left and nobody said, "Hey, do You want to come abide with me? Do You want to come be with me?" They were just getting the

teaching, but they had no thought for Him. And then verse 38, “*And all the people came early in the morning to the temple...*” not to the Mount of Olives, not to where He had been, not to where He spent the night, but where they left Him. Where they left Him. In the temple, “Lord teach us, teach us more.”

So I have on the board a little chart with a Bible and with a Cross. And the Bible of course represents the Word of God and the Cross represents the Lord Himself. And in just these two simple verses, looking at our heart and looking at how we choose to relate to the Lord. And in this situation, there was a real hunger for the Lord, there was a real desire for the Word, that was paramount and that’s what they were coming for. But listen carefully, they were coming for His teaching. And then left Him, after they got filled and got what they wanted. And then the next morning they go, “We need Jesus, we want the Lord...” so they come back, not to where He spent the night, not where He “*abode*”, it says, but to the place of teaching. “Oh Lord, Oh Lord, we want You. Teach us.” And these scriptures are very simple, they’re right at the end of Luke 21 and most people could read right over them. Now there is this truth, that it is necessary to search the scriptures and I don’t back off of that one bit. It is necessary to see Jesus in the Word, but that is not the end. That is on the road to something. And so there can be developed sort of a lifestyle. It starts as a habit, you get in a habit of going to church, maybe at home getting into the Word, but never really coming to Jesus, never really seeing Jesus. This is a really great example right here, He’s teaching, He’s right in front of them and they’re getting the teaching but they never see Him as it were, as they leave and He’s left there. Their mind is not on Him, their mind is on Him as presented in the scripture. And again, I have no problem with that, except as, that becomes something that forms us outside of our hearts being after the Lord, outside of our desire saying, “I’m not just wanting to see You in the scripture.” And here’s why I’m bringing this up, Albert, like many of us, spent his life searching the scriptures and he did know the Lord in the scriptures but when his mind went, he couldn’t reach Jesus. And this isn’t being critical at all, I love Albert. But we have to know Jesus on a greater basis than just what we know from the scriptures. Does that make sense? With the scriptures you have to “call them up.” And I know for a fact that sometimes the darkness we go through is just like Alzheimer’s, in that we go through some situation and we can’t call up the scripture, we can’t call up Jesus, we can’t call up the answer. Do you know what I’m talking about? You get in that place and it’s like, “Where are You Lord?” And it’s like, before the crisis, we’re standing over here in light, seeing Him in the scriptures and then we step over here in darkness and the very Jesus that we were just knowing, it becomes, “How did that go...?”

Oh Lord!” And there’s this little panic that goes with it, “Where’s Jesus? I want to get hold of Jesus.”

I just want to tell you something: getting hold of Jesus is not the goal. He’s got you, you’re one with Him. The day Satan gets on the throne and cuts off His toe and you’re that toe, that’s the day you can start worrying. Do you see that? Do you think Satan is going to sneak into the throne room and assassinate Jesus? It is not going to happen. You’re one with Him, but you have to know that One, not just the one from the scriptures because much of the time we’re trying to retain all of that in our mind. And I’m going to tell you something, I’ve been searching the scriptures since I was 22 years old and I mean big time searching the scriptures. And I loved the Lord and loved the Holy Spirit, but if I had not at a certain juncture moved past that being what my life is, I would not have anything in darkness. How many of you think that I ever have to go through bad trials or darkness? I do, I do. And when I do, when I step into darkness and I can’t call it up, I don’t freak out. I don’t freak out if I can’t call up the scripture in relationship to that. It doesn’t affect me at all, do you want to know why? Because I’m one with Jesus, by His death, burial and resurrection, I’m one with Him. But here’s the key, see, you can’t, in the darkness just go, “I’m one with Jesus, by the doctrine of death, burial and resurrection.” Because it really doesn’t work, it doesn’t. You say, “Make it real in me Lord, because I’m confessing it.” Ok, you’re going to have to get past confessing it, you’re going to have to get to the place of knowing Him. And they didn’t, they knew Him from the place of the scriptures, they knew Him from this area and they knew Him from that area, but they did not know Him from who it was and see Him in these circumstances. For example, this circumstance right here in Luke 21. This circumstance is one where He is there day after day, pouring Himself out, giving Himself, and this almost makes it sound like He’s there from the morning when they get up and show up until night when they go to bed! He doesn’t come back the next day and say, “You people are the worst, I had to sleep out there in that garden. Do you know how many mosquitoes are there in the Mount of Olives? Do you know how rough it is sleeping on the ground? You people are horrible!” But He never said anything like that, He didn’t mention it, He won’t mention it, He won’t bring it up. Because why? Because our hearts have to find Him, our hearts have to find Him. And when your heart finds Him, you think of Him outside of religious, temple teaching. I put no confidence in my ability to teach or my sincerity or anything. My confidence for you is that the Holy Spirit is going to reveal Christ. That’s my desire and my confidence.

There is this awakening to this One, not to the message. The Word, the scriptures, can just be message. Jesus Himself is Spirit and Life, this is Him, this is the way He is. This is just a fact, if you love somebody, you notice their ways. If you fall in love with somebody, you notice all kinds of stuff other people don't notice. Well, God is love. He's not holiness, He is holy, but He's not holiness, He's not all of the things we talk about God, He's omniscient but that's not who He is, that's a trait that He has. But He is love and He notices. And when the Holy Spirit sheds abroad in our hearts the love of God, we notice. We don't have to try, we don't have to work it up. It's not like this either (this came because I said this once), "Ok, God, You are love, so help me love You more." This is my opinion, but I think that is one of the worst things you can say to somebody you claim to love. But I said that to the Lord, and then it got real quiet. And I thought about it and I said, "I want to take that back Jesus." See, if He just does it then it's just Him giving His own love and getting it back, in that sense. There's meant to be a response from us. But in this situation, Jesus is right there and we're not noticing Him. We're not even noticing the Him of it, we're noticing the wonderful words of life, we're noticing the beautiful way that He opens those scriptures and you say, "Oh, never a man spoke like this man!" (John 7:46). Or, we're sitting at home and we say, "This is just the best! What He just showed me and I can't wait to share it in church because everybody will think I'm so spiritual!" Anybody ever done that before? Me too, me too. So we're not even really noticing Him in the Word, we're noticing us. "This is really good and people are going to be impressed!" Our attitudes and lack of awareness of the Lord are seen in this. And again, you're not going to get this just by staring at His face while He's teaching saying, "You're what it's all about!" You're going to see it in His heart movements. Movements, do you understand that word? Heart movements are things that He does that identify Him. And you can see that in the scriptures and you can see that in the way He deals with you and if you were one of those people that were there in that day, you could see it in Him coming constantly, all day, sharing and disappearing and you get home and you're comfortable, you think, "Huh, I wonder where Jesus went. Ah, I'm sure somebody took care of Him." And then He shows back up and He doesn't say anything. These are attributes that are not common to us. We by fallen nature are selfish and everything has to play some way into my life. And that's why the word "self-forgetting" is so fantastic. Because if you do something in self-forgetfulness, here's how you'll know it: later on you'll realize, "Wow, I wasn't even a piece in that." Because we have mixed motives. If you say, "I just did that but I don't know why," there were probably five different reasons and one of them

is probably you, if not four...or five. But self-forgetfulness is greater than unselfishness. It's the same thing but self-forgetfulness means you have gotten to the place where it's not even about you, it's about Him. And I am in this for Him and it is coming now automatically. Amen?

Father, thank You for Your Word and Your Son and may He become more to us than just a great teacher, more to us than just a great subject from the Bible. May our hearts now, may our hearts push past just knowing Him in the scriptures, though we will do that, push past to find You there, as the One that we are one with, as the One that is our life, as the One that can live and move and have His being in us as we have it in Him. We ask in Jesus' name, amen.