

How God Meets Our Three Most Basic Need

CONNECTING WITH GOD

Ice Breaker: If you were watching a TV talk show and they advertised that they would be discussing “connecting with God” what would you expect to hear?

The Search for a Divine Relationship

There is a great interest in “spiritual” things today. It seems everyone, at some point in life, wants to know God. He created us with a spirit that is restless to reconnect with its creator.

When have you sensed this longing more intensely during your life?

God Does Not Want Sin to Separate Us from Him

God wants you to know Him personally In Jesus:

Jesus said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. John 14:9

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:26-40

²⁶As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

²⁷So he did, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.”

³⁰Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah; so he asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹The man replied, “How can I, when there is no one to instruct me?” And he begged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

³²The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. ³³He was humiliated and received no justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Was Isaiah talking about himself or someone else?”

³⁵So Philip began with this same Scripture and then used many others to tell him the Good News about Jesus.

³⁶As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?”

³⁸He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

1) Who are the characters mentioned in this Bible story? (Circle them)

2) What was the Ethiopian’s social and political stature in life? With all that, was he satisfied? What do you think he was still lacking?

3) How do we see his longing to connect with God? What do we find him doing on his return trip?

4) How is he like people in our world today? What are people doing to connect with the supernatural or pursue spiritual curiosity?

5) Can you identify times in your life when you were more keenly thinking about God or “spiritual” things? When? Why?

6) Who along the road of life have been like Phillip, people God sent your way who sought to assist you to understand the truth about Jesus? How did you receive them? How did God use those encounters in your life?

7) In what ways does Jesus fit the picture of the one described in vv. 32, 33? (See also, Isaiah 53:5-6; 10-11.)

8) Jesus is God. He died but rose again and is alive today. His Word, the Bible is timeless. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, *“Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends.”*

How does Rev. 3:20 speak of Jesus’ desire to have an ongoing personal relationship with mankind? (Hint: door, meal, and friends)

9) In what sense would you describe this has happened for you?

10) What indications do you see that this became a reality for the Ethiopian?

Because this man was in charge of the treasury of Ethiopia, this man’s conversion brought Christianity into the power structures of another nation. This is the beginning of taking the Gospel *“to the ends of the earth”* we read in Acts 1:8.

Wrap Up:

God designed us with the basic need to connect with a higher power or ultimate authority, i.e. God, our creator. How does this lesson apply to you personally?

Prayer: How can we help one another through prayer today?