

"Be Still and Know"

- We saw last time I spoke that God is saying to you and to me: "Be still, and know that I am God." God is saying to us in effect: "In order to help you do just that, you must be willing to drop one thing or another. Draw near to Me instead, and I'll draw near to you. I'll make my presence so real to you that you'll want to stay where I am. Then and only then you'll begin to get to know Me as you've never known Me before. You'll begin to know that I am God as you've never known Me before.
- Now the word that's used here for "know." YAW /DAH in the Hebrew, is another amazing word. There are many ways of knowing a person, and all of which are contained in YAW/DAH. The best illustration I can give is a friendship between a boy and a girl. The boy meets the girl for the very first time. He likes the girl, but she doesn't like him. So he goes out of his way to win her over in one way or another. I'll spare you the details, but after receiving bouquets of flowers, boxes of chocolates, endless letters on Facebook, a moment in time eventually comes when the girl begins to change her mind. He's not so bad after all, she thinks. Indeed he's rather sweet. The next time he asks me, I will go out with him.
- One thing leads to another. They go for long walks, but there's no bodily contact. Weeks go by, and a moment eventually comes when she feels his hand on hers. She's a little embarrassed to begin with, but she makes no effort to stop him. More weeks go by, and then a moment comes when he puts his arm around her shoulder, and draws her to himself. Again she feels a little embarrassed, but not as much as before.
- More time slips by, and then it happens. She's starting to wonder now if he will ever ask. But he does. "Will you be my wife?" he eventually pleads, slipping his arm around her waist. "I will," she replies, and he lovingly plants a kiss on her lips. The 'big day' comes, and they are joined together in holy wedlock. They come to know in due course what it means to be intimate, and they go on getting to know just that for the rest of their lives.
- Now that's a poor reflection of the stages we must needs go through if we would know God the more. We do well to remember to begin with, that there was a moment in time when we, like the girl with the boy, had little, if any, time for God, and even for His Son. Oh we'd eyes for other people and things, but we hadn't eyes for Him. But let me tell you know something? In spite of all that, He had eyes for us. I'll never know the reason why, but He had. And do you know something else? He did something about it. Having set His eye on us, He began to draw us to Himself as only He could have done, until a moment came when we saw Him in an altogether new light.
- What had brought about the change? Correction. Who had brought about the change? The Holy Spirit. How did He do it? He enabled us to see Him as we had never seen Him before. Indeed, He effected such a change in us that we began to sing for the very first time: (Sing):

*"Jesus, how lovely You are,
You are so gentle, so pure and kind,
You shine like the morning star,
"Jesus, how lovely You are."*

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Psalm 46:10

- What had happened to us? We'd come to know Him as we'd never known Him before. Or put another way: We had now become YAWDAH. acquainted with Him for the very first time in our life; for that's what YAW/DAH means in part; to be acquainted with. For example, it's the word that Isaiah used of Jesus as being "a man / YAW/DAH / acquainted with grief" (*Isa.53:3*). It's the word that was addressed to Job by his so-called 'friends;' "*Acquaint now yourself with God*," they told him, "and be at peace" (*Job.22:21*). So having got to know the Lord, and having been found of Him, we had also become acquainted with God as we had never known Him before.
- So let me ask a question now. How well do we know God at this precise moment in time? Do we know Him any better today than when we were found of Him? Are we discovering things about Him that we had never known before, for that's another meaning of YAW/DAH: to discover. For example, I call to mind that occasion in *1 Sam.22*, v. 6, "*when Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been - YAW/DAH - discovered*," he took steps to take him (*1 Sam.22*, v. 6).
- God, I believe, is saying to you and to me: "I want you to discover what you've never known before. Paul said much the very same thing to the believers in Ephesus in *Eph.3:18f*: "*May you be able*," he told them, "*to comprehend with all the saints, (with all other believers), what is the width, and length, and depth, and height*" of Christ's love for you, and to know (and experience) His love (for you), which surpasses knowledge."
- Now keep in mind the friendship between the boy and the girl, and how it developed over a period of time from becoming acquainted to begin with, and then to discover things about the other that neither had known before. What was happening here? They were now becoming more familiar than they had ever been before. Oh, they were still being celibate; they were still being moral; they were still being modest; they were still being discreet; they were still being virtuous; they were still being pure; but they were now becoming more familiar than they had ever been before. And believe it or not, that's another meaning of YAW/DAH, to become familiar with.
- For example, one calls to mind what Job said when he was complaining at the time: "He (God) has removed my brethren far from me, and my acquaintances are completely estranged from me; my familiar friends, my YAW/DAH friends, my closest friends have forgotten me," or as in the N.A.S.V, "my intimate friends;" not just some friends; but my very best friends; my very close friends; the closest friends I've ever had.
- Do you know something? God is saying to you and to me, "I want to be more familiar with you, and for you to be more familiar with me." So let me ask you a question now. How familiar are you with God? How close are you to God? How well do you know Him? How far have you progressed in your friendship with Him? How far have you come in knowing Him better? How far have you come in knowing Him more?
- To get back to the friendship between the boy and the girl; one thing led to another, then to another; and another. But they ultimately came to what their friendship was really all about when they were joined in marriage, and had "*become one flesh*" (*Gen. 2:24*). Now they had come to understand, and for the very first time, what Paul really meant when he told some believers in *Hebrews 13:4*: "*the marriage bed is undefiled*" between a husband and wife, and only between a husband and wife. Then he says in the very next breath: "*but fornicators and adulterers / God will judge*."

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- What did Paul mean by "fornicators?" Two single people of the opposite sex sleeping together as if they were married. What did Paul mean by "Adulterers;?" Two married people of the opposite sex sleeping together with someone else other than their husband or wife.
- But to get back to the friendship between the boy and the girl. Something else happened after they had "*become one flesh.*" I love the way the Authorised Version puts it when speaking of Adam and Eve becoming "*one flesh,*" and for the very first time. Listen: "*And Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived*" (*Gen.4:1*). In other words, Adam - YAW/DAH - knew Eve his wife, as he had never / known her before. Do you want to know the reason why? Because YAW/DAH also means / to be intimate with / in a purely physical sense.
- Let me give you another example of that: I call to mind that occasion in *Judges 21,v.11,12*, when 12,000 children of Israel were sent to destroy Jabesh-Gilead, and I am reading from the A.V.: "*And this is the thing that you shall do,*" they were told. "*You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has YAW/DAH, lain with a man. And they found among the inhabitants 400 young virgins who had known no man by lying with any male; and they brought them to the camp in Shiloh.*" Let me read this from the N.K.J.V.
""And this is the thing that you shall do. You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has YAW/DAH, known a man intimately. So they found among the inhabitants 400 young virgins who had not known a man intimately: and they brought them to the camp in Shiloh." And their lives were spared.
- Do you know something? God wants us to be intimate with Him, and to come as close to Him as it's possible for us to do. We may never know the intimacy which Moses enjoyed with God; for "*the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend*" (*Exod. 33:11*). We may never know the likes of that, but to really know God is to be intimate with Him, and it takes time to know Him that way.
- Do you know what will happen when we do? We'll enter into the mind of God as we've never done before. We'll begin to share His secrets as we've never done before. And do you know something else? it will show in how we live our lives, as we've never lived before. it will show in how we behave as we've never behaved before. It will show in how we conduct ourselves as we've never done before.
- Which brings us back to where we began. If we would know God in a more intimate way, we must learn what it means to be RAW/FAW, to be "still and know that He is God." In short: we must spend more time in His presence if we would get to know Him the more.

Could we sing in closing?

To be in your presence, to sit at your feet,
 Where your love surrounds me, and makes me complete.
 Chorus: This is my desire, O Lord, this is my desire.
 This is my desire, O Lord, this is my desire.
 To rest in your presence, not rushing away,
 To cherish each moment, here I would stay.

Chorus:

We are standing on holy ground,
 And I know that there are angels all around,
 Let us praise Jesus now,
 We are standing in His presence on holy ground