

ACTIVATE School Of Prayer

Session 5— *Friendship With God*—Barb Hummel

I. Friendship with God

- A. We have each been created with a longing to be in relationship with God. There is deeply rooted in us a **desire to be known**-I believe it was birthed in us for the time of our creation
- B. Our desire to be known and His desire that we know Him. From the beginning of time we see examples of this:
 - a. Adam & Eve walking in the cool of day with the God in the garden
 - b. God talking to Moses face to face as with a friend
 - c. David crying out for the Lord to search him
 - d. Jesus's friendship with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha
 - e. The disciples daily interacting with Jesus -Peter-John
- C. The drawing of our hearts is to know and be known by Him.
 - a. Throughout scriptures we see those who drew near to Him and encountered Him, and sadly those who looked from distance. Those who sought His heart and His ways, and those who were content to know His deeds.
 - b. The distinction is key to observe for it speaks of the friendship and its layers of depth of relationship people have with God.
- D. Relationships are build on trust, communication, common interest, honesty, time together.
 - a. Friendship with God-it is one of the aspects of our lives that is mind boggling.
 - 1. That the God of the universe desires relationship with us.
 - 2. The core of who He is is relational.
 - 3. The vastness of Him is so great that even though He rules and reigns and is God -He calls us by choice into a relationship of intimacy in which He knows all things and yet He desires us to share our hearts and our thoughts.
 - 4. He longs to share His heart with us, that we would know Him.

II. Key Questions - Tonight I want to take time to look at the life of Moses in relationship to these questions:

1. *So what does it mean to be a friend of God?*
2. *What fruits in our lives demonstrates this relationship?*
3. *How does it affect the way in which we pray?*

1. What does it mean to be a friend of God?

Exodus 33:11 - "The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend."

Psalm 103:7 - "He made known His ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel."

Exodus 32:11 - "Moses sought the favor of the Lord."

- A. As I have been studying Moses in Exodus I have been challenge to unearth the aspects of His relationship with God-his friendship.
 - a. The Lord would speak to him as a friend Face to Face.
 - b. What does that look like?
 - c. What was it like to meet with him in the tent of meeting?
 - d. What did it feel like for Moses to know God knew Him by name and was pleased with Him?
- B. We can answer what it means to be a friend by seeing the evidence of fruit in our lives of friendship with God, and the way in which it affects who we are and how we pray.
 - a. Moses was with the Israelites as the crossed the Red Sea and saw the deliverance of the Lord.
 - b. He was the leader who guided them in setting up the tabernacle of the Lord establishing the protocols and he was given the call for them to observe the Sabbath.

Exodus 31:18- "When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mt. Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tables of stone inscribed by the finger of God."

Exodus 32:1-The people become impatient while Moses is interacting with God and they say to Aaron "come make us gods who will go before us..."

2. What fruit in our lives demonstrates friendship? (Exodus 33:7-12)

- A. **Intentionality** - Moses was intentional and went outside the camp to pitch his tent (the tent of meeting) to be with the Lord and spend time with him. **vs. 7**
- B. **Encounters with Him** - "As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke to Moses." **vs. 9**
- C. **Access** - to the secret places with God, and **Awareness** of His presence.
 - a. Moses earned a place of trust that gave him access to the secret places with God.

- b. God shared with Moses the things on His heart. He gave Moses an access to Him that others did not have.
- c. In that place Moses was aware of His presence-not simply the proximity of God at that time, but the manifest presence of God. Here Moses grew in His desire to be with Him and the significance of His presence.

D. **Heart to hear His voice**

E. **Hunger** to know the heart of God and see His purposes fulfilled.

F. **A desire to please God** coupled with active demonstrations of **sowing to please the Spirit** - A friend of God utilizes their focus, purpose, time, and attention knowing that He is worthy of it all.

- a. We develop friendship by sowing faith, submission, humility, forgiveness, reverence, and time.

G. **Being known by God by name** is the result of deeper levels of intimacy with the Lord. **vs.17**

"The more we develop intimacy with the Trinity, the more we come to understand what pleases Him, what brings Him delight, and we understand more of His nature and character. This fellowship and intimacy with the Spirit brings clarity of insight which we can use to speak life, wholeness and destiny into people. -Seth Fauwcet

- a. Moses preferred the wilderness with God to the Promised Land without God.
- b. Moses earned a place of trust that gave him access to the secret places with God.
- c. He spoke openly to Moses not in mysteries or sayings that need interpretation.
- d. Moses saw the glory of God pass by Him. He heard the name of the Lord in the midst of His presence.
- e. Moses was sincerely devoted to God and his cause, desires, and purpose.
- f. Moses shared the very feelings of God...he grieved with the Lord when He grieved due to sin.

3. **How does it affect the way we pray? (Exodus 33:12-23)**

- A. Moses was a prophetic intercessor.
- B. Exodus 32-33 - we see that the fruit of His relationship with God, and his perseverance in intercession affected God's decision.

- a. God intended to destroy the people. Moses' intercession provided a basis for God to change the course of action and not fulfill his threat to destroy the people.
 - b. God then decided to allow the people to go into Canaan, but led only by Moses and an angel.
 - c. After more prayer God changed His plan, responding to Moses's petition for Him to go with them. He agreed that His presence would go with them.
- C. Moses' intercession changed God's decision.
- a. This shows that not every decision of God is fixed and irrevocable.
 - b. God always remains free to change his declared judgment in order to show love and mercy.
- D. God answered Moses' prayer because he respected him, considered him a friend, and was pleased with him.
- a. In his intercession we see that Moses had a desire to know His ways and Moses had a desire for the people to be known as God's. This shows a desire for righteousness and an awareness of partnering with God's intentions.
 - b. From this we can see our call to partner with Him for His Kingdom purposes.
 - c. It is finding out what is on the heart of God and praying for it to come to pass.
 - d. We pray from a position of authority and we partner with His spirit.
 - e. In prayer we feed our faith and speak words of life fueled by the Spirit.
 - 1. This is the call of our hearts as fellow Levite-a priest in the House of Prayer.

Activation:

Prayer Points:

- 1. Salvation for Unbelievers
- 2. School District
- 3. Non-Profit Organization
- 4. Nations