

## **01 | What Matters Most**

### **FULFILLING YOUR CALLING Series**

Welcome to Part One of this series. My name is Kimberly Dirmann, and it truly is my privilege to get to be with you through these next few teachings. You know, a few years ago, I had the privilege and actually my whole family had the privilege of being with my grandmother, who was about 102 in her final days. And something that just impacted us so profoundly was the repeated sentence that she used during the days that we were with her. And this is what she said. She said, "My whole family loves Jesus and let's keep doing everything we can to reach everyone we can." And again, she just repeated that several times. And I was so glad that Jerry was there, and our children were there and their spouses, because it really left an impression on what matters most at the end of our lives.

Well, do you know that God has some things that matter most to Him? I want to recap for you today from Genesis to Revelation. I want to recap for you what matters most to God. And perhaps as we look through these beautiful passages, you'll begin to understand even more clearly what matters most to Him. Now, you know that in Genesis 1:1, it says, "In the beginning, God created

the heavens and the Earth. The Earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. You know, in Genesis, Chapter One, it captures what God did in those five days. And then in the sixth day of creation, He put man in this beautiful garden. There were stars and there was the moon, and there was the sun, there was the ocean and the mountains, and this clean, clean air and beauty that you and I can't even begin to imagine. So, God took something that didn't even exist--that was dark and void--and created this beautiful landscape.

Well, you know, creation for Him wasn't the big deal. The big deal for Him was who He was bringing into creation. It's like a parent who begins to prepare their nursery for that child. They begin to paint or bring colors in and a crib. And it's not about this stuff. It's about that baby that you're bringing into this place. And this was what was in the heart of God. God already knew beauty, but He was creating beauty for who? For mankind. Now, in Genesis 1:26, it says that God said, "Let us make men in our image according to our likeness." And then He gave them dominion. So very interesting that after God creates the landscapes and the animals and the plants and all this beauty, He makes man. But notice that He makes man in His image. The only created being of all the things that He did that is in the image of God and in the likeness of God, and then gave them dominion and said, "Be fruitful and multiply." Now I

want to go to Genesis 3:8, it says, "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day." I just need to point out God didn't even come down until it was cool. Alright, and Adam and his wife hid from the presence of the Lord among the trees of the garden. Why did God come down into the garden in the cool of the day? Because He would spend time with this man and this woman that He created in His likeness. He created them to be able to have conversations, to be able to fellowship, to be able to talk together and commune together. And so what would God do? Literally, He would come among them and He would spend time with them.

Can you imagine what that could have been like? It's not a concept that we can really understand because there was no sin at the time. There was nothing that separated God from man until we get to Genesis 3:8, when man did sin. And then you can see that the people, Adam and Eve were hiding from the presence of God. But I want to highlight to you, God creates this beautiful earth for man, then He creates man in His image, in His likeness, then He comes and spends time with man until sin, and then things begin to shift.

But now I want to look over at Exodus 29: 42 - 46. It says this. "This shall be a continual burn offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet you to speak with you. And there ...",

(listen) "... there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory. Verse 45 says, "I will dwell among the children of Israel and I will be their God, and they shall know that I am the Lord, their God who brought them out of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the Lord, their God." I highlighted, "I will dwell among the children of Israel." And then in verse 46, " ... that I will dwell among them." So, notice after sin took place, God couldn't just come in His Godhead and meet with man face to face. But He still wanted to be among the people. So, He would dwell in the tabernacle so that He could be in the midst of the people. Think about that. We take it so casually, but this is a holy, powerful, awesome, majestic God who says, "I will come into this place called the Tabernacle so that I can be in the midst of my people...", My people who were still sinning, My people who are rebellious by people who don't always listen. God's heart was, "... but I want to be with them. I created them to be with them." And so though has sin has separated as God found a way that he could still be among the people.

Now what is so beautiful is God already had a plan in motion for salvation because God didn't want to remain just in a tabernacle, in a building, so to speak. He wanted to come back into that deep fellowship that He intended us to have from the beginning. So, John 3:16, the plan of salvation had already been enacted even before the foundations of the world. John 3:16, "For God so loved for

God ...", so loved the world. The world, including people that loved Him, including people that didn't. "For God, so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." See God, even before the foundations of the Earth, already knew that man would sin, and began to put in motion the plan on how to restore man back to Himself. Hebrews 12:2 talks about Jesus. "Who looking unto Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of the faith, who for the joy that was set before Him." Before who? Before Jesus. He endured the cross. For the joy that was set before Jesus of restoring man to God. He endured the cross. It says that He despised the shame, so he endured it. It was difficult, but He thought, " ... they are worth it. Restoring people back to God is worth My suffering and my dying."

Now, when Jesus was getting ready to leave, He told his disciples. He said, "I'm not going to leave you orphans." Isn't that beautiful? Jesus, who was here in the flesh-- think about that. God with us. Jesus in the flesh. But as He was preparing to go back to the Father, He said, "I'm not leaving you orphans. I'm going to send you the Helper." And I want to read John 14:16. It says this, "And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever." And then He told his disciples, "This Holy Spirit will be in you. He'll abide with you. He'll be in you." Again, God finding a way to be with us ... to be now in us. The same God who created Man for

fellowship, even after sin, continues to pursue man in relationship. Now listen to John 14: 2 & 3. "Let not your heart be troubled." This is Jesus speaking. "You believe in God. Believe in Me, also. In My Father's house, there are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. But I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself." Listen to this. "That where I am, there you may be also."

So, while we're here on Earth, we get to host the Holy Spirit inside of us. But Jesus is saying, "I'm going ... I'm not leaving you orphans, I'm sending you--the Father will send you--the Holy Spirit. But I'm going to prepare a place for you so that you and I can be together forever, so that you and Father God can be restored to the original plan of fellowship and communion." Isn't that amazing? Think about who you would want to spend eternity with, right? There are some people that you're thinking, "I'd love to spend eternity with them." And then there's others that maybe you think, "... Could I just spend a thousand years with them?" But the heart of the Father--the heart of Jesus--to say, "Listen, I'm preparing a place," once again, "I'm preparing a place, and this time you're going to get to come, but you're going to be face to face with Me once again." But it's going to be for eternity. There will be no sorrow, no weeping, no sin, nothing that separates us from this beautiful fellowship of seeing the Father, seeing Jesus, and

communing with Him. Saints, we have nothing to be afraid of in death. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us. And the beauty--the lack of sting and death--is that we get to be restored back to this fellowship with a real God who wanted that kind of communion all along. So, yes, there's a sting when believers pass away because we miss them. But for us as believers, we get to be back in full communion, face to face with God. So, Jesus is telling his disciples, "I'm going to prepare a place that you may be where I am forever and ever and ever." That is a long time. What is Jesus saying? "I want to restore you back to the original plan." Father. God has put in motion an original plan to bring you back into that kind of fellowship.

Now, Revelation 21. Listen to verses one through four. "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold the tabernacle." Tabernacle--the dwelling place. "The Tabernacle of God is with men. And He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God." Think about this. There's a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, behold, look. The Tabernacle The dwelling place of God, is with men, and He's going to dwell with them and they shall be His people." God Himself will be with

them, not separated from heaven and earth, but together in this deep communion unlike anything you and I could possibly imagine. That just ... so blesses me that this perfect, holy God has created us, and even though He knew we would sin, He created a plan so that for eternity we would never be separated again. What matters most to God? What do you think matters most to God? Some people would say, "Well ... people." And to some degree that is true. But listen, what matters most to God is relationship, communion, fellowship with people. It's not just people. It's God desiring man and God to be restored into this deep fellowship where there's no breaking of communion. What matters most to God? Relationship. Or we could say fellowship with man.

If that is what matters most to God, it should be what matters most to us. You know, we sing songs of, you know, "Lord, the things that break your heart, let them break mine and the things that matter most to You, let them matter most to us." But this is not just a song to sing. No, this should be the cry of our heart. "Lord, the things that matter most to You, need to become the most important things in our lives." And if relationship or fellowship restored, fellowship with man is the most important thing to God, then I think it needs to become our priority. Who is He trusting? Who is God trusting with what matters most to Him? You and I ... believers. Jesus fulfilled His job here on Earth. He gave authority to man. He sent the Holy Spirit. The Father actually sent the Holy



Spirit, and then Jesus sat down at the right hand. He is seated at the right hand of God because He has passed the baton to you and I to restore ... to see people restored back into communion with God.

Listen to 2 Corinthians 5:17 - 20.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. Old things have passed away. Behold, all things that become new. Now, all things are of God who has reconciled as to Himself through Christ Jesus and has given to us the Ministry of Reconciliation." You have a ministry. Sometimes I hear people saying, I don't know what my ministry is. Well, according to second Corinthians 5:18, you have the Ministry of Reconciliation. That is for every believer. Jesus charged, every believer to go preach the gospel, to make disciples. We have the Ministry of Reconciliation. Listen to verse 19. "... that is that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. God has committed to you and to me the word of reconciliation. Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us." God says, "Can I please plead to mankind through you? Can I please be the voice through you to let them know I'm imploring you. Come back to Me." I want to read it again. "We are ambassadors for Christ as though God were pleading through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." God's saying, "You're ambassadors. You've been given the Ministry of Reconciliation, and now

would you allow the voice of God to use your voice to plead with man, "... Be reconciled back to God?" Why? Because what matters most to Him is not just people--it's relationship with people. Fellowship and unbroken communion with people.

Jesus again, said in Matthew 28, "Go therefore make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." See, this great commission is how we are to go about as ambassadors. This is how we bring the Ministry of Reconciliation--by preaching the good news that God is not imputing trespasses and sins, that He's actually sent Jesus to absolutely cleanse everyone, regardless of the depth of sin, He has sent Jesus to cleanse them from all unrighteousness and now human being and God can be restored into relationship. And though there's a barrier here, we're not with Him physically that's only temporary, because by the Holy Spirit He will live in us. But then for eternity we will actually get to be where He is face to face, once again in communion with God ... the way He always wanted for man and Him to have and to be. So, I charge you today, and as I charge myself, make what matters to Him the most, be what matters to you the most. Let's be ambassadors who reconcile people to God and bring them into that relationship once again that He always wanted.