

Friendship with God

Psalm 25:14 ESV “The friendship^[a] of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.” Today’s passage is a mystery that only those who want to be God’s friends will even ask about. *Psalm 103:7 If we only want what God has we only need His acts, but if we really want to know Him, we will ask Him about what is on His heart. *Children can be one-way – God loves us and He wants to take care of us and He cares about what we care about. But to be His friend, we must take time to hear His heart.

Romans 10:20-11:7; 11:11-23; 25-27; 33-36 ESV

- I. Sharing God’s secrets.
 - a. Elijah went very dark because he was partnering with God and became frustrated with the results of his ministry. *Paul has “great sorrow and unceasing grief” – his family members, his mentors, he wants everyone to believe the truth and can’t convince them.
 - b. God spoke to Elijah about what He was currently doing the Elijah didn’t know about, and He invited Him to partner with His future plan.
 - i. I’ve already got 7,000 that you don’t know about! God is working even when we can’t see that He is working.
 - ii. Lisa Quintana this week. *Doubt website – all the doubt and despair started to weigh her down. She went to a Forest Frank concert in Milwaukee – 16,000 young people worshipping with all their hearts. *Ashley’s testimony – the young girl who wanted prayer. Their spirits were lifted by all God IS doing!
 - c. Paul has received a revelation similar to Elijah’s.
 - i. The mystery is something that was hidden until now. A secret God told Paul and now Paul is repeating to us.
 - ii. God hasn’t rejected Israel! He has a remnant now and has foreknown a great revival of the Jews where they will respond.
 - iii. He is using the partial hardening on Israel to give an opportunity for the Gentiles. The Gentiles will come into Israel’s covenant before Israel will.
 - d. Where there is a clear truth in the New Testament, there are often shadows of that truth in the Old Testament.
 - i. Jacob’s bride. Rachel, the younger, is chosen first and Jacob works for her. When it’s time to marry, Leah is substituted in, in a mystery. Rachel comes in second and the bride is complete.
 - ii. Obed Edom the Gittite makes David jealous. He hosts the Presence of God and has the blessing of God and David wants it. So it will be with Israel in the end times.
- II. God’s heart for Israel.

- a. He stretched out His hand all day long. Opportunity after opportunity – the final being Jesus.
- b. Luke 13:34-35 ESV “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”
- c. Luke 19:41-44 “And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”
 - i. Judgment came in the first century.
 - ii. They will bless Him when they see Him in the skies: Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7 When the church is raptured there will be a great outpouring on the Jewish people. 12,000 from each tribe sealed – is this literal or the prophetic number of completion?

III. Partnering with God.

- a. Honor Israel – “I will bless those who bless you.” The root is the promises the Jews received from God.
 - i. Romans 9:4-5 “They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.” They carried them and protected them.
 - ii. John 4:37-38 ESV “For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” *Don’t be arrogant or proud. The rise in anti-Semitism.
 - iii. A parable from the Larson family. “The Larson’s had a prosperous farm in the early 1920’s and were thrilled with their first-born son, Bobby. Seven years after Bobby’s birth they welcomed four more children, one after another, and then the depression hit. Bobby was not able to go to high school because he had to help his Dad on the farm to make ends meet. Because of his sacrifice, the other kids were all able to stay in school and prospered greatly. When World War II came, Bobby had to go off to war and when he

came back, something had changed in him. He had a bad attitude and became violent at times. His Dad warned him again and again that to be in this house there were rules that had to be followed, but Bobby persisted in his rebellion. It finally came to a head one day when Bobby, in the midst of one of his tantrums, hit his mom in the face and made her bleed. His Dad then told him to leave. Bobby left angry and promised to never return. Years went past and the four younger siblings developed different attitudes toward Bobby. One felt that Dad and Mom were still angry and holding a grudge against Bobby; one felt that Dad and Mom had completely forgotten Bobby in the joy of the children that remained; and one, although aware that Dad and Mom were still sending money anonymously to Bobby, felt that it didn't involve him. The last child knew that losing Bobby had broken Dad and Mom's heart and that they would never feel the family was whole until Bobby returned. He would find Dad and Mom praying for Bobby with tears, and would often join them in prayer as well as do whatever he could to reach out to him even though Bobby still claimed he wanted nothing to do with the family. Israel was God's first chosen family. He hasn't forgotten them anymore than Bobby's parents had forgotten Bobby."

- b. Learn from Israel. The severity of God. What happened to Israel in the first century was devastating. God held out His hand all day long and then it was too late. They had missed their opportunity.
 - i. Eusbieus and the prophecy of Jesus. Luke 21:21-22 ESV "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written."
 - ii. The second coming will not have signs – we have to be ready all the time. We don't leave; we're taken. They obeyed prophecy – now we need to.
- c. Pray for Israel.
 - i. Isaiah 62:6-7 ESV "On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth." House of Prayer – what? There's a great anointing on these prayers – His ways are unfathomable to us! The first Monday of the month 6:30-8 pm.
 - ii. How to pray.
 - 1. For their preservation. Israel has returned in our day – the dry bones have come together (Ezekiel 37) but they are still dry. America interceded in 1948 and we've stood by Israel

ever since. The enemy wants to destroy Israel and their destiny. Militant Islam's declared mission statement is to destroy Israel. Without being political, our military has been used to weaken the enemy's threats.

2. Pray for spiritual awakening. But Israel is still dry: Can these dry bones live? Prophecy to the bones.
- d. Trust and obey. Elijah focused on God's part and how he thought God was doing and it depressed him. *Leave the cave and anoint Elisha; 1Samuel 16:1 ESV "The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Devotional that day: "God is in charge of planning, protecting, providing, and guiding. We are in charge of trusting and obeying. It's a nice arrangement when we do our part and don't question His!" Don't live in "why?" Live in the Spirit – how do I respond to what is happening that I can't possibly understand.