

## **WALKING WITH GOD – GOD IS NOT A MAN Prt 1**

Last week we started on a series titled **MERE MORTALS WALKING WITH GOD** and I used the relationship between a father and a son as an example of a relationship between a believer and God.

I won't repeat myself, but it suffices to mention three highlights from that introductory message:

- 1. God is immortal (powerful and indispensable), whilst man is mortal (weak and full of needs)**
- 2. Naturally, man is not inclined to walk with God, but his default is to rebel and to run away from God.**
- 3. Naturally, God is inclined to pursue man to do him good.**

- Having said this, let's go back to the analogy of the earthly father-son relationship. Something must happen for that relationship to work because it does not happen by default or by chance. We have seen disasters taking place so many times between fathers and sons.
- If you take time to look at failed father-son relationships, or any other relationship for that matter, you will discover that one of the main causes of the breakdown is the lack of trust between the two parties involved.
- The issue of trust in a relationship is a matter of character. To trust is to have a firm belief in the reliability, truth, or ability of someone or something.
- In the absence of trust, a father-son relationship will not work. The son must trust the father and the father must behave in a trustworthy manner. As time goes on, what will sustain that relationship, will be the son beginning to behave in a trustworthy manner as well.
- One of the major stumbling blocks for mere mortals to walk with God is that mortals find it difficult to trust God. This comes from the fact that very few mortals are trustworthy at heart.
- This brings me to the title of today's teaching – **GOD IS NOT A MAN.**
- Because you have been betrayed by people, especially authority figures, you have been conditioned not to trust people in authority. As a result, that mindset has made it difficult for you to intimately walk with God because you struggle to trust Him.
- You have heard that God can heal, you know that God is all powerful, but you struggle to believe His reliability.
- Your walk with God has been affected by the wrong concept of God – your view of God determines the quality of your walk with Him.
- You cannot walk with someone you don't trust – the reason why we always make plan B is because we don't trust people after being let down too many times.

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- To walk with God, you need to distinguish God from man and from your experiences of man, hence the Lord is reminding you today that He is not a man.
- God is not like your father, who walked out on you when you were young, God is not like your mother who was always angry at you, neither is He like your friend who is only present when he needs you and never present when you need him.
- There is a clarion call for believers to pursue the knowledge of God. There is a difference between knowing about God and knowing God. Many believers know about God and most of it is second hand knowledge.
- If we know God, we would pursue after Him, we would know that He is not a man.
- Paul desired to know God – this was a man who had walked with God but He still needed to know God.

*Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable to His death;*

- Paul further states that he does not behave like one who has arrived but rather he keeps pressing on.
- He wanted to know Jesus so much that he counted everything else as rubbish as compared to attaining the excellent knowledge of Jesus Christ.

*Jeremiah 9:24 but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.*

- I am going to anchor this theme in a story in the Book of Numbers, where we find the Israelites on their journey to the promised land. We catch them when they were almost getting into Canaan because at this point, they had camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.
- They were about to enter the land of the Moabites and this group of people had heard about the strength of Israel and fear had set in among them.
- To show their fear, the Moabite King described them in a certain way and the Bible says in *Numbers 22: 4 “...This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.”*
- To stop the Israelites from licking them up, the Moabite king, Balak thought of calling upon a priest-diviner named Balaam (He considered himself a devotee of every god, believing

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that he could communicate, work, and curse anyone for any financial benefit) to curse them to weaken them.

- Negotiations ensued between Balaam and Balak and eventually Balaam reluctantly agreed to go and speak over the nation of God.
- God did not want him to go at all but allowed him to go but under tight restrictions.
- Balak's idea of calling Balaam was to curse the nation of God but instead, the opposite happened, God conferred blessings upon His people.
- Over this whole period, God sent 7 messages of blessing through Balaam, and this strengthened Israel's hand.
- This is what happens when you walk with God – God will always have your back when you walk with Him. Israel was walking with God because God had chosen to walk with them.
- God had chosen Abraham and out of Abraham the great nation of Israel was birthed, a nation that God dearly loved.
- God loved Abraham so much that He made promises to him and one of them was possessing Canaan.
- This brings me to the first aspect that distinguishes God from any man.

### **1. God is a promise keeper.**

- The reason why mere mortals should seriously consider walking with God is that He is a promise keeper.
- This is a character trait that makes God to be God. He does not only make promises, but He has the capacity to keep them.
- Man can make promises but often lacks the capacity to fulfill them.
- In Balaam's second message, this character of God is clearly highlighted.

*Numbers 23: 18 And he took up his parable and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear. Listen to me, son of Zippor. 19 God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent. Has He said, and shall He not do it? Or has He spoken, and shall He not make it good?*

- The Israelites were oblivious to what was happening in the hills surrounding them – what was happening was that the devil was making plans to weaken their position.
- I want you to know that there is a lot going on behind the scenes to cripple you, to kill you prematurely and to bring you down.
- If God was a mere mortal, He was going to sell out Israel. Balak had lined up burnt offerings, bull after bull had been sacrificed to Him and that would have been enticing enough for any man.

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- Man will turn against their own words in the presents of money, in the presents of a praise report and in the presence of a better life. Thank God that He is not a man.
- In the seven messages, we hear God saying some powerful things about Jacob:
  - Jacob is an unstoppable nation.
  - There is no iniquity in Jacob.
  - There is no trickery in Jacob.
  - The shout of a King is among them.
  - Jacob's kingdom shall be exalted and has no ending.
- But Jacob had failed God so many times, Jacob had worshiped a golden calf, Jacob had disobeyed God at mount Sania and yet God was showering Jacob with a good report.
- This is what makes God to be God – He will call out the best out of you. God speaks to the treasure and the potential in you.
- When God sees you, He sees Himself, He sees Jesus the righteous one.
- God is so faithful that even when you mess up, He will not betray you to the enemy.
- Yes, God will correct you, but never will He agree with the enemy for your destruction just for the benefit and satisfaction of the enemy.
- Nothing that you will do will change God's mind about you - *Numbers 23:19 God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man that He should repent.*
- God is not double minded about you, when He promises you something, He will surely fulfill it.
- You can trust God because He is reliable – God is a promise keeper.
- God did not need to be motivated to remain faithful to Jacob, God did not need to be coerced but it is natural for Him to keep His promises.
- When you have a promise from God, you can rely on Him to bring it to pass.

*Joshua 21:45 Not a word failed from any good thing which Jehovah had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.*

- The coming of Christ is the greatest testimony of God being a promise keeper.
- The Bible story is the story of God putting into action a redemption plan for humanity and was fulfilled in the birth and the death of Jesus Christ.
- Immediately after Adam had sinned, before God even pronounced judgement against Adam and Eve, He made a promise that a Redeemer will come and defeat the serpent, and in this was fulfilled on the cross.

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*Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. way defeat sin and death.*

- This promise was fulfilled thousands of years into the future when Christ hung on the cross.
- What does this mean to you and me? It means that God is reliable and can be trusted. In other words trust issues should not stop you from walking with God.