

WALKING WITH GOD – GOD IS NOT A MAN Prt 3

Joshua 1:1 And it happened after the death of Moses the servant of Jehovah, Jehovah spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2 My servant Moses is dead. Now, therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people to the land which I give to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, I have given that to you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your border. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not fail you nor forsake you.

If You are joining us for the first time, you find us in the middle of a series titled **MERE MORTALS WALKING WITH GOD** and we are doing prt 4 today.

- Several weeks ago, I mentioned that one of the reasons God created you, was for fellowship, it was for communion with Him.
- In other words, walking with God is the greatest honor mere mortals can achieve whilst being on earth; not making money, not having a great marriage, not having an illustrious career. All of that without God, amounts to nothing.
- We also discovered that in as much as mankind was created to fellowship with God, mere mortals don't find it easy to walk with God.
- We found out that one of the reasons why man find it difficult to walk with God is that man has trust issues - man cannot trust God enough to intimately walk with Him.
- This is because we tend to see God through our experiences with man and we all know that very few people are trustworthy. *"Many claim to have unfailing love, but a trustworthy friend, who can find – Proverbs 20:6"*.
- If you closely study God's word, you will discover that the story of the Bible is meant to proof to you and I that God is not a man and that He can be trusted.
- That is why we began to explore the topic **GOD IS NOT A MAN**. By God's grace, this morning, I want to cover the last aspect that I believe God wants to remind us of regarding the fact that He is not a man.
- Again, this is not an exhaustive list, but it is a rhema word (the Rhema word is timely and extremely valuable in a Christian's walk with God) for Go church in this season. So what have we discovered so far? God laid it upon my heart to remind you that He is not a man because:

- 1. He is a promise keeper.**
- 2. He is patient with mankind.**

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- When I started, I mentioned that the natural father-son relationship is supposed to take after the relationship between God and His children.
- If we can consider again the analogy of a father-son relationship, one of the challenges we face as South Africa is the phenomenon of absent fathers and fatherlessness.
- According to the Human Sciences Research Council, most children in South Africa — over 60% — don't live with their biological fathers. And 20% only have contact with their biological father twice a week.
- What does one think of God if they didn't grow up with a father and they are supposed to call him a father. They would tend to think that God will not be available when they need Him, they start expecting God to run out on them just like their natural father did.
- But this morning, the Lord wants to change our mindset regarding Him – this brings me to the third trait that distinguishes God from mortal beings.

3. He is an ever-present God.

- I don't know what your experience with mere mortals has been, but God is coming to you to tell you that His name is Emmanuel, God with us all the time.
- Lets go back to our main scripture in the book of Joshua.
- Joshua and the children of Israel were about to move into the promised land. Everyone was excited and looking forward to settling down in a land of their own.
- When they were at that pivotal point, disaster struck – their leader of 40 years decides to die.

Joshua 1:1 And it happened after the death of Moses the servant of Jehovah, Jehovah spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2 My servant Moses is dead.

- Moses, why did you decide to die at this key moment? The answer to that question is that Moses is a mere mortal, Moses is limited and Moses can disappear at any time.
- That is why you can never entirely depend on man – but this morning, we have an opportunity to do life with someone who says “I will never leave you nor forsake you...”
- One of the things that distinguishes God from man is this aspect of being ever present.
- He is an omnipresent God, He is everywhere all the time and if you have someone who can be with you all the time, you can be assured of uninterrupted help.
- So after Moses died, the Lord came to remind Joshua that the future was not bound in Moses and therefore, the future did not die with Moses.
- The future of Joshua and the Israelites was not bound in and with Moses but was bound in the ever present God of Moses.
- When your future is bound in a mortal being, your future will disappear with them.

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- It does not matter how loving someone can be, that someone is limited. You might have a responsible parent, but parents won't be with you all the time.
- I don't know about you, but I have discovered that many people will fail you in your darkest moments – in your darkest moments, you will know that you need something more than mere mortals.
- This is the thing, even when someone is present with you, sometimes all they can do is to cry with you.
- When I am talking about a very present God, I am going beyond a god who is just omnipresent but one whose presence changes everything. I am talking about the active presence of God.
- When God says He is an ever-present God, He is not talking about His general presence, He is talking about His active and abiding presence. Therefore, you must desire to experience His active presence.
- It is this presence that God was promising Joshua – it was a presence that guaranteed victory and protection.

Joshua 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, I have given that to you, as I said to Moses. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not fail you nor forsake you.

- God was not interested in just being an observer but was coming to enforce His promises.
- Let's further look at the implications of walking with an ever-present God?
- Saints, it is the presence of God that changes everything and you must crave for it.
 - It is the presence of God that changes a mere building into a Holy place of worship.
 - It is the presence of God that changes a mere platform into an altar of prayer.
 - It is the presence of God that made the footsteps of 4 lepers in 2 Kings 7 to sound like a mighty army approaching.
 - It was the presence of God that brought down the walls of Jericho.
 - It was the presence of God that enabled the shepherd boy David to defeat the great warrior Goliath.
- With this, don't tell me that God is only interested in being omnipresent, no – He is a very present help in times of need.

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of

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the sea; 3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

- He has proven Himself to be present when we are in trouble, He has proven Himself to be our salvation when we are overwhelmed by life.
- His presence provides a hiding place for you – He is our refuge (a place of safety and protection – a stronghold).
- Trouble in the world is real – the waters rage, the mountains shake but when the ever-present God is with you, you have nothing to fear.
- When the earth moves, it is only His presence that will anchor you and render you unshakable.

Psalm 46: 4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. 6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

- He is called a river that runs through your troubled land, He is a river that brings gladness and joy.
- Life has a way of killing your joy but when you walk with His presence, the Bible says He will give you the oil of gladness for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that you might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD¹.
- When the disciples faced a storm, Jesus was sleeping at the bottom of the boat – it does not matter what type of storm you can face, if Jesus is present, the storm will know when to stop. When He woke up, He commanded the storm to stop.

Psalms 46: 9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. 10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

- Many people are caught up in a warfare of some sort, but the Bible says He is the Lord of hosts, who wages war at a completely different platform.

¹ Isaiah 61:3-10

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- “Lord of Hosts” is not just another title for the Lord but is one of His names, which display His mightiness as Leader of angels and human armies, as well as the Commander of stars and planets.
- It makes Him the protector of His people – He starts wars on your behalf and stops wars on your behalf.
- It is in this context of the ever-present God that the scripture that says “Be still and know that I am God...” was written.
- We must calm ourselves whilst going through storms, we have to remind ourselves about who is with us.