

## **WALKING WITH GOD – IN PURSUIT OF GOD PRT 3**

*Matthew 3:13-15 (NIV) Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.*

We have been talking about being in pursuit of God and last week, we established that there is no better person to teach us how to walk with God than Jesus Himself. This morning I want to continue talking to you on the topic **IN PURSUIT OF GOD PRT 3**.

Lets continue exploring Jesus so as to learn how to walk with God.

In the portion of scriptures we read, we see Jesus at the beginning of His public ministry and we met up with Him at the river Jordan where John was baptizing people. It is this encounter that gives us yet another principle on how to walk with God.

Jesus walks up to John and said He needed to be baptized by him. This shocked John because John knew who Jesus was – John knew that Jesus was the Lord and by all counts, He should be baptizing John. Listen to what Jesus said:

*Matthew 3:15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.*

- Jesus makes a profound statement that deals with a key to walking with God. He found it necessary to fulfill all righteousness, though He was God. In order to walk with God:
- 1. Be willing to conform with the revealed will of God in all respects.**
- Though Jesus was God, He was not prepared to violent any truth He knew because of expediency.
  - On face value, proceeding without being baptized was not going to take anything from Jesus. However, Jesus was not going run way from doing what He knew was the right thing to do.
  - What is the point? The point is that walking with God, will require you to be willing to live out every truth that you are aware of.
  - When God reveals a truth to you, He expects you to live according to that truth. The more you live by the revealed truth, the more He will continue revealing Himself to you.
  - This results in a deeper level of intimacy with God.
  - Your walk with God is hindered each time you go against the revealed truth in your life. That is why it is written “*to who much is given, much is required.*” – *Luke 12:48*.
  - Your intimacy with God cannot go beyond the value you place on what He says to you.

## **WALKING WITH GOD – IN PURSUIT OF GOD PRT 3**

- Walking in a righteous manner means you do what you know is right for the glory of God, regardless of how it feels whilst doing.
- Prophecy had been given regarding John as the forerunner of Jesus, as the prophet who was going to introduce the Messiah to the world.
- Something needed to happen to confirm the prophecy and to affirm John as that forerunner.
- Baptism was a way for a person to identify with another person or group. It signified that the person being baptized was connected to the baptizer.
- When Jesus insisted to be baptized by John, it was a formal and public acknowledgement that John was the one whom Isaiah had prophesied about.
- This was the right thing to do, though in the spirit John was the lesser of the two.
- In the process of Jesus fulfilling all righteousness and confirming John's ministry, Father God in turn confirmed Jesus as the Messiah when He spoke and said in *Matthew 3:17 ... This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*
- Each time you choose to live by a known truth, the Father God shows up to confirm that you belong to Him.
- God will do miracles for you, He will open doors for you, He will shower you with favor and grace – why? Because you would have chosen to walk in righteousness, you would acknowledged Him as Jehovah God in your life.

- Something else happened when Jesus was baptized – lets look again at this event:

*Matthew 3:16(NLT) After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.*

- The baptism of Jesus inaugurated Jesus into His earthly ministry. Something significant happened during His baptism, which underlines a requirement for anyone who endeavors to walk with God.
- Not only was Jesus water baptized but Jesus was baptized in the spirit as well.
- It is important to be reminded that Jesus was fully man and fully God – because He was fully man, He needed something supernatural to enable Him to walk with the immortal and supernatural God.
- In order to walk with God;

### **2. Deepen your fellowship with the Holy Spirit**

- No mortal can walk with God without the enablement given by the Holy Spirit.

## **WALKING WITH GOD – IN PURSUIT OF GOD PRT 3**

- Being fully man, Jesus had His limitations and needed the help of the Holy Spirit to fully function in what the Father had asked Him to do.
- Jesus needed the Holy spirit to close the gap between His humanity and His divine nature.
- The Holy Spirit descended and settled on Jesus during his baptism and anointed him with power.
- He is the first one to experience the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. His walk with the Holy Spirit was not an on and off relationship, as it was with everyone else before Pentecost.
- This meant that a continuous and ongoing fellowship with the Holy Spirit enabled Him to have full and uninterrupted fellowship with the Father.
- Unless you have a close relationship with the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to walk with God.
- In John 4, we are reminded that God is spirit and those who worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth.
- Walking with God is foolishness to a person without the Holy Spirit.

*1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

- A person who fellowships with the Holy Spirit is less carnal than the person who has no time for the Holy Spirit. The more attention you give to the person of the Holy Spirit, the more your spirit man is alert to the activities of God in and around you.
- The Holy Spirit knows the mind of the Father, the Holy Spirit knows the will of the Father and the Father wants you to be in the know.

*1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard," nor has it entered into the heart of man, "the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the things of a man except the spirit of man within him? So also no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*

- When you walk with the Holy Spirit, you will have access to God's thoughts and ideas – these are things that the ordinary man has not seen or heard or perceived.
- When Jesus came out of the Jordan, the natural progression would have been to go straight into the field of ministry. But that was not what the Father wanted – look at what happened straight after His baptism:

## **WALKING WITH GOD – IN PURSUIT OF GOD PRT 3**

*Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit up into the wilderness, to be tempted by the Devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterwards hungry.*

- The Spirit led Him into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Who would have thought that the Holy Spirit would lead Jesus to a place of possible defeat?
- This is what happens when you walk with the Holy Spirit – you will be led in unique ways for a purpose and a reason.
- Jesus needed to meet His arch enemy privately and to defeat Him privately before encountering Him in the public.
- His private victory shaped everything that later happened in His public ministry.
- The church has not paid attention to the third person of the God head and yet He, the Holy Spirit enables us to walk with the Godhead.
- Jesus told His disciples that it was for their good that He should go to the Father. Jesus had to go in order for the Holy Spirit to come and indwell them.

*John 16:13-15 New King James Version (NKJV)*

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*