

AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE PRT 3

Two weeks ago, we began talking about an acquainted disciple and we saw how important it is to know Jesus. This morning, I would like to share another principle that will help you become acquainted with the Lord and I am doing **AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE PRT 3**.

Let me remind you about the meaning of to acquaint - to "acquaint" oneself means to gain knowledge, become familiar with, and develop an intimate, personal relationship with someone or something.

- We looked at four aspects in the last two weeks:
 1. **An acquainted disciple believes Jesus to be all-sufficient.**
 2. **An acquainted disciple invests enough time with Jesus.**
 3. **Acquaintance with Jesus starts with receiving Him as Lord.**
 4. **An acquainted disciple relies on the Holy Spirit**

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God... 14 And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and of truth.

- Here we have John giving us another means of getting acquainted with Jesus.
- Whenever something is repeated in scripture, it is an indication that you must pay attention to it. In verse 1, John uses the term WORD three times, and we ought to pay attention.
- He takes us back to the beginning and this has an allusion to Genesis 1, in which it is written *in the beginning God*, but the beginning John refers to here is not the same as the beginning of Genesis 1. This beginning is before the beginning of the Genesis account. It is the beginning when it was only God in existence.
- It is important we understand that before everything came into existence, God existed and that is why He is called the self-existing one.
- John says that before anything existed, the word was, and he introduces the word in the following ways:
 - The word was in the beginning, implying that it was not created
 - The word was with God, implying that the word has the ability to fellowship and commune.
 - The word was God, implying that the word is God Himself who was in the beginning. The word is divine in nature; the word was and is not a god, as some people would want to suppose, but is fully God.
 - By implication, if you lay hold of the word, you have laid hold of God.

AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE PRT 3

- Things become interesting because in verse 14, John drops something of staggering proportions when he says the *Word became flesh and dwelt among men, and we beheld His glory.*
- In other words, what John is talking about is Jesus, who was made flesh. This is commonly expressed by saying that he became “incarnate.”
- When we say that a being becomes “incarnate,” we mean that which is of a higher order than man, and of a different nature, assumes the appearance of man or becomes a man.
- Being made into something means that something is changing form, and, in this case, Jesus was made flesh, implying that he had pre-existence.
- The Greek word used for Word here is logos, which means that by which we communicate our will; by which we convey our thoughts; or by which we issue commands and it is the medium of communication with others.
- This description rightly fits the Son of God because He is the medium by which God propagates His will and issues His commandments.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds,

- When the Bible says the word became flesh, it means that the Word (God’s will, commands and instructions), became intimately united to Jesus that the Logos, or “Word” “became” or “was” a man.
- John said, the word in its form as a man came and dwelt among men and men could relate to it - *14 And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and of truth.*
- When Jesus came, He gave Himself to His disciples, He fellowshiped with them, such that they could testify that they saw Him and experienced Him.

1 John 1:1 We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.

- The disciples had experiential knowledge of Jesus, and that built their faith and conviction about the things of God.
- They saw, they touched, and they heard the Word.
- What is the point here?

5. An acquainted disciple actively engages the Word.

- The disciples had firsthand experience of Jesus, the Word. They stayed with the word long enough to know Him intimately.

AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE PRT 3

- The disciples were privileged to experience Jesus in person. Now, how about us? What do we do because Jesus is not here in His physical form?
- Earlier, we learnt that Jesus is the full expression of God's thoughts, and in that regard, Jesus is a full representation of what God has to say to humanity.
- That word logos is also used many times when referring to the written message of God:
 - John 17:17 (ESV): 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
- Through the inspiration of God's Spirit, men of the Spirit were led to capture Jesus and put Him on scrolls and pages. That is how we got the Bible.
- In other words, the Bible as we know it is God's word and means more than printed words on a page.
- God is a communicator and does that through different means, but the main one He uses is Jesus through the written word.
- Your attitude towards God's word determines your level of acquaintance with Jesus.
- You will never get to know Jesus until you search Him in His word.
- It is not so much about the written word because if it were about the written word alone, then all the people who went to seminary would be well acquainted with Jesus, but that is not the case.
- The word introduces you to the person behind the word, and that person is Jesus.
- In other words, you read the word not for knowledge alone but to know the person behind the word.
- The word is meant to bring you into the presence of Jesus, just like the disciples could sit under the feet of Jesus.
- When you read the word, you must have a picture in your spirit of Jesus standing before you and speaking to you.
- There were mixed reactions from the disciples when they came into contact with Jesus, the Word.

John 6:53 Then Jesus says to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. 54 Whoever partakes of My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

- The word will come for different purposes, and you must be prepared to take all of it as it comes.
- Jesus told the disciples to do something that was a taboo if they were to be part of Him – they were to eat His flesh and to drink His blood. This was a hard saying, and many people were offended, and they left Jesus.

AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE PRT 3

John 6:60 Then, when they had heard, many of His disciples said, This is a hard saying, who can hear it?

- Knowing Jesus means having to live up to His word, submitting to it, and allowing it to have its perfect work in you.
 - It is a sword that pierces and discern man's thoughts – Hebrews 4:12-13 (it is active, alive, it knows all, it is powerful)
 - It is a mirror that reveals – James 1:23
 - It is milk that nourishes – 1 Peter 2:2
 - It is a fire that purifies and consumes – Jeremiah 23:29a
 - It is a hammer that breaks – Jeremiah 23:29b
- Don't stop reading the word because it is hard to take in, don't stop coming to church because the current series is too sensitive to you.

John 6: 66 From this time many of His disciples went back into the things behind, and walked no more with Him.

- Many people will never get to know Jesus because they are not ready to submit themselves to His thoughts and ways.
- They went back to their old ways, meaning that they were not prepared to go along with Jesus. It was too costly and inconvenient to know Jesus.
- But there were some who were ready to pay the price to know Jesus – listen to what Peter said:

John 6:67 Then Jesus said to the Twelve, Do you also wish to go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life.

- There must be Peter and the disciples who have a revelation of the Word. Choose to be Peter, who understood the power of the Word and was not prepared to trade it for anything.
- What was Peter saying? He was saying, 'Jesus, you have the words of eternal life. Jesus, you have the keys to a healthy life. Jesus, you have the solution for my marriage problems. Jesus, you have the wisdom for my upcoming exams.
- Whenever God wants to expose His other dimension to mankind, He will send Jesus the Word:

Jeremiah 1:4 And it happened, the Word of Jehovah came to me, saying, 5 Before I formed you in the belly I knew you; and before you came forth out of the womb I consecrated you, and I ordained you a prophet to the nations.

AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE PRT 3

Ezekiel 1:2 2 On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin— 3 the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. There the hand of the Lord was on him.

Luke 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

- Jesus is fully known by those who expose their hearts and souls to the word of God.
- There is no revelation outside of God's word. If you are to rank prayer, God's word, and fellowship at the top, it should be the word.
- By correctly handling the word, you will pray effectively, and you will have godly fellowship.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be perfected, thoroughly furnished to every good work.