

The Bible—the Word of God

Message 4 (part 2)

Knowing God through the Bible as the Written Word of God and Through Christ as the Living Word of God (2)

Monday

2 Cor. 11:2

Returning back from distracting thoughts in our time with the Lord is on the negative side, now the positive side. When we are with the Lord, how do you explore the deep, deep mine? This all has to do with the 3-circle diagram—our inward parts. It is really marvellous how the Lord made us. We have the mind, the emotion, and the will, the conscience, the fellowship, and the intuition. Do you realize all of these parts function when you are spending time with the Lord? When you come to the word, even just this verse, maybe you start to pray, “Oh Lord, for I am jealous, I am jealous.” We talk about pray-reading. There are different ways of pray-reading. When we pray-read corporately we do a lot of direct repeating of the words from the scripture and not adding too many other words. Generally, we do not add too many words, just repeating and adding “Amen”. When we are alone with the Lord, we have a lot of freedom. I would suggest we have a different kind of pray-reading where we are converting every phrase, if not every word, into prayer. Also personalize the prayer, personalize the word. “For I am jealous over you”—personalize to pray, “Lord thank You, You are jealous over me. Lord, You are jealous over me, Thank You for Your jealousy.” There is no word *me* here. “Lord, thank You; You love me so much; You are jealous over me with the jealousy of God. Lord, thank You for the jealousy of God!” Then there maybe something inside us: “Why are you jealous over the saints because of the house they own? This verse is not about that house: “Oh Lord, forgive me, forgive me for thinking about that house.” No, no; don’t chase the Lord away; chase Satan away. The Lord may use this verse to show you that you

are jealous. You are jealous of the saints. You may say, “Lord I’m not jealous; I just like her house. Then the Lord may shine and show you that its not just jealousy anymore; it has become a root of bitterness, and you compare your husband with her husband. Why can’t my husband make more money, so we can afford a house like that? And it could be that this has been working in you for three years, ever since you became part of that small group meeting. Every week you are there, “Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord” but on the way home your thoughts are, “I wish I had a house like that.”

Tuesday

1 Cor. 11:3 – Footnote 3¹

Do you think the Lord never touches things in us when we are spending time with Him? The Lord has been wanting to touch you, but you have been too busy; too busy with service, too busy with life, too busy with your children, with work; and have not taken enough time to be still before the Lord, and let Him touch something deeper in you. Do you know what you are doing when you allow the Lord to touch you? You are exploring the deep, deep mine. You are going deeper into Him and He is going deeper into you. There are obstacles, things, desires, longings, dreams, fantasies, that the Lord wants to touch, and He does not have the adequate time. The Lord is just like we are because we are a reflection of Him. It could be that I have been wanting to talk to Luke about something for three years, but I just could not find the right time. You think maybe this time, and you get caught up with this and that and you just think, “I’ll just hold it.” Do you see that the Lord is the same? It doesn’t mean that He’ll never flow in you until He deals with you. No! The Lord is gracious, and He’ll allow you to enjoy Him, but He wants to go deeper about something. “For I betrothed you to one husband!” “Oh Lord Jesus, You are my husband. Oh Lord Jesus, I’m your wife.”

Maybe another verse comes to mind from 1 Corinthians: “The head of the woman is the man.” “Oh Lord, You are my head” and the Lord might speak, “Was I your head in the brothers meeting yesterday when you made that suggestion to the brothers?” You have to say, “No Lord, that was me, that was me; I was the head; Lord I repent.” You are starting here having fellowship, you are just enjoying Him, as you are enjoying Him, the Lord speaks what about this? That’s light! But this anointing, on our side it is intuition in our spirit; on God’s side it is the anointing, the moving of the Spirit. How does He move? He moves through the word. The word and the Spirit are joined in this operation. You need your eyes to read, you understand with your mind, and it gets into your spirit. It’s the moving of the Spirit but you have to interpret that feeling; what is He saying? The more you know of the word, the better you can interpret the feeling in your spirit. If you realize that He is speaking to you, “You did not take Me as the head” then what happens? You repent and you

conscience is active. You have one spirit but it has all these functions, and through the cooperation of these three functions of the spirit, along with the renewed mind, we can have fellowship with God. It's not just that we get supplied, not just that we ask for things, it's that He speaks to us. This is how God speaks to us. It's not a voice calling out loud, "Go preach the gospel"; it's a sense deep in our inner being.

Wednesday

Psa. 36:9

1 John 1:7 – Footnote 7³

Do you want more speaking of the Lord? The process is to read more of the Bible and spend more time praying; mingling our prayer and our reading. Then the Lord has a way to speak. It's the same way with the hymns. When we sing the hymns, we need to be more flexible. I hope we can learn more hymns. The hymns are our heritage. These hymns are the experiences the saints had before us, and the Lord gave them the gift of poetry and music to put it down. Now two hundred years later we are singing these hymns, enjoying their Christ, and going further in these experiences. That is a beautiful thing. That is the body of Christ! That is the universal Body, not affected by time and space. Some of these are Germans, Swiss who wrote in their languages and they were translated and now we are enjoying it in the twenty-first century. This is the Body!

Maybe you could sing, "Thy Word is like a storehouse with full provision there." Then you have the feeling, "Lord, why don't I enjoy the full provision?" Don't sing the whole thing and then pray. As you are singing by yourself, you can do this. If we are singing all together and I am touched, I cannot ask everyone to stop and say, "I want to pray, Oh Lord I repent." This does not work in a meeting, but when you are by yourself you can be so flexible because as you are singing, you get feelings. Be faithful to follow that feeling; this is the intuition. You are having fellowship and the Lord speaks giving you the feeling of longing: "Lord I want the full provision." Then you just keep singing, "And everyone who seeks may come, It's glorious wealth to..." "Lord. I want the glorious wealth. I don't want to live like a pauper. I don't want to live like a Christian who's in poverty. Lord, You qualified me for a share of the allotted portion. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in You, and in You I am made full. Lord, why don't I live full? I don't agree with my not being full." These verses are in Colossians which are not in the list of verses for today, but that's okay. The Lord through the word or through the hymn by His anointing had something for you, specifically for you! That morning that is only for you. You keep going if you have time. I find just a hymn brings me through the anointing to have prayer and

confession for fifteen to twenty minutes. After thirty minutes I am finished and I never got to opening the Bible. I didn't read the verses for today, but the Lord brought verses to me that were already there and brought them up through the reminding of the Spirit. That was my food for that day. But if you have time you just keep singing, "Thy Word is like a deep, deep mine... Lord, I am so superficial. How come I never go deep and here it's a deep, deep mine. Lord I want to go deep. I surely don't want to stay superficial but I want to go deep, deep. Lord, I want more of You." The hymns can fuel our prayer. Just like the word, we convert the words to prayer. My intention is not to affect anyone's time with the Lord, not to criticize or to question. My intention is to try to enhance the quality of our time.

Thursday

Matt. 21:12-14

Knowing God through the Bible as the Written Word of God and through Christ as the Living Word of God

II. The entire Bible, particularly the four Gospels is a revelation of Christ as God's expression—Matt. 1:1-17; Luke 24:27; Rev. 1:1:

B. The case of Jesus cleansing the temple—Matt. 21:12-16;
John 2:14-17.

Matt. 21:12-14:

- 12 And Jesus entered into the temple and cast out all those who were selling and buying in the temple. And He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling the doves,
- 13 And He said to them, It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.
- 14 And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

When I was young I could not understand why the Lord was angry because I thought Christians should never be angry. He went into the temple and He overturned the tables. My thought was “Lord?!” Later, I read the Bible and in Ephesians it says, “Be angry, but do not sin.” I do not know how to do that. It also says, “Do not let the sun go down on your anger.” That means let it go. You may be angry but you can’t sin and you have to be able to let it go. Can you do that? Jesus, no doubt, was angry. He was expressing the Father’s feeling, so it says here that He cast out all those who were buying and selling and He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling the doves. Please notice the *seats* of those selling the doves.

In John 2:14 it says that he found in the temple those selling sheep, oxen and doves and the moneychangers sitting there and having made a whip of cords He drove them all out of the temple as well as the sheep and the oxen, he poured out the money of the money changers, overturned their tables. Then verse 16 tells us that to those

who were selling the doves, He said, “take these things away from here.” You notice He does not overturn the table of those selling the doves, because if He would have done that, the cages would have fallen and the doves would have gotten hurt. But He overturns the seats of those selling the doves. Do you see His controlled anger? We might have a picture that His anger was like a man in the jungle with a machete, but the Lord made the whip, chased out the animals, turned over the money tables, and then told those selling doves, “Get these away from here”, but He wouldn’t hurt the doves. What kind of a Lord is this? Where is the Lord now? He is in each of us. He wants to reproduce that in us. There are times we must take a stand for the Lord, but even when we take a stand for the Lord, be careful, don’t hurt the doves.

Friday

Mark 5: 30-34 – Footnotes 30¹, 34¹

- C. The case of the woman with the flow of blood—Mark 5: 22-34.

Mark 5:22-34:

- 22 And one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name, and seeing Him, fell at His feet;
- 23 And he entreated Him much, saying, My little daughter is at the point of death. Please come and lay Your hands on her that she may be healed and live.
- 24 And He went with him, and a great crowd followed Him and pressed upon Him.
- 25 And a woman was there, who had a flow of blood for twelve years.
- 26 She had suffered much under many physicians and had spent everything she had and had not benefited at all, but rather became worse.
- 27 When she heard the things concerning Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His garment,
- 28 For she said, If I touch even His garments, I will be healed.
- 29 And immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she knew in her body that she was cured of the affliction.
- 30 And immediately Jesus, realizing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, Who touched My garments?
- 31 And His disciples said to Him, You see the crowd pressing upon You and You say, Who touched Me?
- 32 And He looked around to see her who had done this.
- 33 But the woman, frightened and trembling, knew what had happened to her, and she came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.
- 34 And He said to her, Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be well from your affliction.

Can you imagine this? A crowd and many are pressing on Him and this woman has this thought: “I have to get to Him.” They are walking and somehow she touches His garment and then He says, “Who touched my garment?” The disciples were saying in

paraphrased way, “Um, Lord we are all touching your garments.” Verse 31 says, “You see the crowd pressing upon you and you say who touched Me?” And He looked around to see her who had done this. Imagine if you were that woman, would you try to hide or would you raise your hand saying it was you? It would be very obvious if she raised her hand. But Jesus turned around and said, “No, someone touched Me and that touch was different than the pressing that you are talking about. It’s not pressing; someone touched me out of faith. You were touching me when pressing me while following, out of curiosity following Me. She touched me out of faith.” Then the woman frightened and trembling knew what had happened, came and fell down, and told Him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be well from your affliction.” I would like to ask you—why did the Lord embarrass this woman? Didn’t He heal her? Is that not good enough? Here he had to stop the whole procession. Everybody is going and He says Stop! Wait! Who touched me? And then He is waiting—the Bible does not tell us how long it was before she came forward. I think the Lord waited a little bit and then looked right at her and then she came frightened. “It was me, it was me, I’m sorry.” What does this show us? The Lord does not only want to solve our problems, He wants fellowship, He wants something face to face. He’s not like a genie in a bottle, three wishes like in Aladdin. He is not Santa Claus going in the sky and dropping gifts. He wants fellowship. He wants to heal you but He wants a little face to face time. He wants to say, “Daughter”, something so sweet and intimate. “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace, be well. Go in peace, be well.” That’s our Saviour! That’s the Lord that we deal with! We have thoughts, concepts of the Lord. We need to read His word, to really know Him.

Saturday

John 8:10-12 – Footnotes 11², 12¹

M. The case of the woman caught in adultery—John 8:1-12, 31-32, 34, 36.

We know this case, the Lord was in the temple and all the people came to Him and He sat down and taught. The Pharisees brought a woman to Him caught in adultery, and having set her in their midst they said, “This woman has been caught committing adultery in the very act: Guilty or not guilty? She’s guilty! Now in the law Moses commanded....” The Pharisees used the word to condemn: “Stone such a woman!” But they said this to tempt Him that they might have reason to accuse Him. Jesus stooped down and wrote with His finger on the ground. And when they persisted in questioning Jesus stood up and said, “He who has not sinned among you, let him be the first to throw a stone.” Again He stooped down. Can you imagine this picture? They come like a mob, maybe some of them along the way already picked up a stone: “We’re ready, just give the word.” What does Jesus do? He’s like ignoring them and when they persisted, the Lord says, “He who is without sin cast the first stone.”

The people there watching may have been wondering, “Who is going to throw the first stone? I have sin. I can’t throw the first one! I can throw the second one, but I can’t throw the first one! Anybody?” And then verse 9 tells us that when they heard that, beginning with the older ones, they went out one by one and Jesus was left alone and the woman stood there where she was in the midst. Imagine the scene, everybody left except her, probably just like the other woman, trembling there. Even though they had all left with their stones, she was still guilty. What would this man say now? Woman where are they? Has no one condemned you? She says, “No one, Lord.” The next three words are, “Neither do I...”. Neither do I! Has the Lord ever told you, “Neither do I condemn you”? Go and from now on sin no more. This is not the Lord in many people’s concept even in the church-life. Sometimes the Lord that we portray to others is the righteous one, sometimes we condone certain things. Sin is sin, but are we the one to throw the first stone? Sometimes in the church-life there are stone throwers, but that is not the Lord’s heart. The Lord’s heart is that this woman needs to be released from her sin. Not just

not judged for her past sin, she needs to be released from her future sin. She needs a way to go on. We might feel righteous to judge a certain situation. Can we do that and still provide a way for them to go on? If not, probably we better leave and leave this to others. These are familiar stories, but my burden is that we would see a little bit more of the beauty of our Lord. Just see Him a little more, explore the deep mine, to show it's deeper than we thought. Maybe you found some jewels; don't be satisfied. Go a little deeper into the mine. Maybe in the same story you will find another jewel.

Amen, for the Spirit and the word and for the exercise of our heart and our spirit for God's economy.