Lesson 21A - Value of the Heart and Relationship

What is considered valuable today?

- Diamonds and gold are considered to be of great value. If something is in short supply it's value increases. It becomes precious and of great worth. We usually take good care of, protect and treasure them.

- While the world values things, power and much more, **what does God value?** (**2 Chron. 16:9 1 Sam 16:7)** God has always desired **a heart to heart relationship with each of you!**

In the beginning, there was a circle of love between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- As the crowning glory of God's creation, man was made in God's image, not weighed down by some structure, but simply free to be in relationship with his God.

- The Father wanted to give a bride to His Son and the Son wanted to give sons, us, to His Father.

- We were created to have a face-to-face relationship with God, not at a distance. It is all about a relationship with Him and His heart towards us. He wants us to receive His love and in turn love Him. **Deut. 6:5 – love with our whole heart**

- God came down and walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. They knew their God up close and personal. We were made for relationship! They only needed Him. Both male and female were meant to be receivers of His love.

Lost Relationship

- When Adam and Eve believed the lie that God was holding out on them, they saw themselves separate from God, needing to get what they already had.

- With the fall, they were cut off from having a close relationship with Father God. It was hard for Father God to send them from the Garden to live on their own. But He had to be sure they didn't eat of the Tree of Life and live forever separated from Him.

- Though they lived outside the Garden, Adam shared with his sons, and succeeding generations the memories with Father God his heart burned with the passion of what he'd experienced. After he died, **the stories were passed on, but with each generation the passion, images and memories of what a relationship with Father God were like became fainter and fainter, until, we lost the true image of who Father God is!**

- From the day Adam and Eve left the garden Father God started working His plan to get His man back from the enemy through Jesus Christ. But all along He gave man **a heart to know Him**. Read **Jer. 24:7 Amp**.- Know in Hebrew is "yada" which means to intimately know like a man knows a woman.

- Throughout time man has been stiff necked towards God, had evil and deceitful hearts, but Father God said he would give us new hearts. Read **Ezekiel 36:26**

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Your Heart the Place of Great Value

- **Your heart is the place of value and worth in God's eyes**. Because you exist, you, your heart, and your life have great value! If you have been born again, He has placed His seed of Love within you that He wants to grow.

- Jesus came to show us the way to the Father and to draw us with Love and bring us home! His blood made the way for us to be in unity, one with Father again. "In Christ" the channel has been opened for all good, not just when we do it right.

- His heart is the safe place where Love covers and brings life rather than death. **The flow of love** from His heart to yours is where He wants you to live. There is a river of life flowing from His throne, which I believe is a river of His love. (**Rev. 22:1)**

- **Father God wants you to know the bigness of His love, and not to be overwhelmed with your outer life and its imperfections!**

- His love is continuous and it's never withdrawn. He wants us to daily receive His love and let it wash over us and keep us clean. We need to stay in His flow of love so we have His pure love to give. We must keep receiving love so we can give it to others and not become dry and hard.

Will You Value Relationship as He does?

- **1 Cor. 1:9 NKJ** – "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." Greek- "Koinonia" means partnership and communion. **1 John 1:3** is the same word. He wants us to know Him and Him to know us in a heart to heart relationship. He wants us to let others know how good He is and be a reflection of Him to the world.

- **The first and most important priority of relationship is time.**
  - God wants His Word to touch your heart, not your head.
  - Self and our thoughts can take charge and usurp what Father has in mind. **Isa 55:7-8**
  - Father God desires relationship and friendship with us, but do we value it and make it a priority?
  - **Psalm 25:14** speaks of His desire to share deep things with those whose heart is towards Him.
  - May we learn to rest in His presence, knowing we belong, and receive His love which will bring us strength and confidence! **Isa 30:15**

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Lesson 21B - Becoming One Again

The Power of Oneness

1. **Gen. 11:1-6 –** There is great power in oneness or being one. The Lord knew that the degree of unity and being one would allow the people to tap into a place of great power.

- What would happen if we as the body of Messiah could walk in that kind of agreement?
- I believe Father God wants us to all be one again! **Do we see ourselves as all having one Father?**
- **Heb. 2:10-11** – speaks of bringing many sons to glory and both he who sanctifies and those being sanctified are all of one (Father) … He's not ashamed to call us his brothers and sisters. We need our identity to be in our heavenly Father and His family!
- Jesus prayed for us to be one with Him and with each other - **John 17:11-12, 21-23 Amp.** The desire for oneness is expressed by Jesus and others, but the reality of being one family has not been fully grasped yet!
- **Phil 1:27** – Paul prays that the people would "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel." NKJ "…that you are standing firm in <u>united spirit and purpose</u>, striving side by side and contending with a <u>single mind</u> for the faith of the Gospel."

2. In the beginning God planned for one big happy family, but that was shattered in the garden. The Lord spoke to me that we've never realized all that was lost in the garden. He said we lost "**the power of relationship**." Abba wants to bring us back to the way things were. **Isa. 51:3**

- Adam and Eve walked and talked with God in the cool of the day. (Gen 3:8) That face to face relationship with Father God was cut off when they choose to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil. At that point, **knowledge replaced relationship, a place where you come to know the heart of another.**
- Adam and Eve may have rejected God but He never rejected them.
- **Father God always found someone to be in relationship** as much as possible. The Bible has recorded a handful of people in the Old Testament that had close face to face relationships with God – Enoch (Gen. 5:22), Jacob (Gen. 32:30), Moses (Ex. 33:11), Gideon (Judges 6:22).
- Jesus came to make the way for us to be back in a full place of relationship as a part of Abba's family, but I believe that many of Jesus' followers and disciples saw Jesus establishing an earthly kingdom and had mixed motives.
- Their hearts were not centered totally on relationship with the Son of God. They had walked with Jesus as a good rabbi that they admired. It took Jesus being transfigured before their eyes to know they were having a face to face relationship with the Son of God.
- Jesus came to live His life in an intimate relationship with the Father and to make a way for us to the Father. **John 10:30**

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3. **1 John 2:5-6 Amp. Message** says, "But the one who keeps God's word is the person in whom we see God's mature love. This is the only way to be sure we're in God.

- Anyone who claims to be intimate with God ought to live the same kind of life Jesus lived." How are you walking?
- A**mos 3:3 -** We can't walk together unless we are agreed!
- **Isaiah 55:8-9 –** Father God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours. Each time we yield an area of our lives and thoughts to Him, we will be walking more in step with Him.

4. What made the Son one with His Father? **John 5:19-20 -** Jesus totally looked to His Father for what He was to say and do. **He lived a life of dependency**.

- **Isa. 30:15** speaks of our need to returning and rest you will be saved and in quietness and confidence shall be your strength."
- Jesus stayed in union with His Father and that brought the rest, quietness and confidence to do all that He did. We can walk the same way.
- Jesus was born as a natural man with a fleshly body, a soul realm (mind, will and emotions) and a live spirit in contact with His heavenly Father. Jesus had an operating will that could be tempted just like us, but He chose to agree with His Father and not allow His flesh, emotions, or mind to divide or separate Him from God.
- **Jesus was so one with His Father there was nothing in His soul to divide**. Heb. 4:12
- He looked to His Father for His identity and purpose for life. Do we?

5. Is your identity fully in Him? Is your soul realm one with Him, which means, are your thoughts, emotions and will agreeing with Father God? **Phil 2:2, 5**

- We are called to "grow up in Christ, Messiah" but how does that happen?
- **2 Cor. 5:17** – Speaks of being a new creation, "old things have passed away, behold, all things have **become** new." **Become** in **Greek is "ginomai" which means to cause to be, come into being.**
- In Mark 1:17 Jesus said I will make you become fishers of men. He is working to help us become. In **Hebrew become is "hayah" which means to exist, be, become, come to pass, be accomplished.**
- God does not want us to be **self-conscious** and anything else connected with self. Our focus is to be on the One who lives within us. Read **2 Cor. 3:5**
- Remember He is working all the time. **Phil 2:13.** Trying to change our outward actions through our own discipline can lead to condemnation if we fail. If we walk after the Spirit, He will guide us the right way. How do we become a true reflection of our heavenly Father and really flow as one with Him?

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6. **Is it hard to be a human being**? No, it's what you are!

- Our Father desires that we see the image of the heavenly man in ourselves just as it was in Jesus! **1 Cor. 15:49** "**Becoming one precedes being (like Him.)"**
- Do we see the treasure that He has placed in earthen vessels or do we only see the earthen vessel?
- There is a process of growth to become a young man or woman and so it is in the spirit with our God. The word**, "become" means to pass from one state to another; by a change from another state or receiving new qualities or a new character. Gen 2:7** - God breathed into man and he **became** a living being.

7. **2 Cor.3:18- 4:1 – What we behold we become!** What are your eyes and your thoughts focused on? The images in our imagination should be only of Him. Do you see yourself "in Him?" Is your strength from your union with Him?

- **1 Cor. 1:9 - Communion or fellowshipping with Him and worshipping Him** will bring you into more oneness. He desires that you focus on the One who created you and that you get your identity from being part of His family.
- **Heb. 12:1b-3 – Are you looking to Jesus and considering Him in every situation you face?** He's been through it and knows the way but do you ask for His help? **Be aware of the oneness you already are walking in**. When you feel pulled in your emotions and flesh, see yourself at rest and at home with Father God.

8. Father so desires that **each** of us **come home and stay at home**. Father's home is only filled with love!

- **John 14:1-2 NLT** – "There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, I would have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you."
- There is a special place in Father's heart that is reserved just for you! He has prepared not only a place but a special part for you to fill right now in His body!
- Knowing we each have a unique place in Him should help us let go of all comparison, rivalry, and competition. Surrendering to His love should be our focus.
- If we live with Him, who is Light and enter into His light, we'll discover that in God all people are uniquely and completely loved! Then we can finally see our neighbor as our brother, one who belongs to God as much as I do.
- **Only outside of Father's home** do brothers, sisters, husbands and wives become rivals and even enemies. That is where we are plagued by resentments, jealousies, and suspicions of one another.

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9. We are **one family with one Father** and **we are one body with Christ as the head.**

- Why do we focus on what is different in each other or what we do not like? We are brothers and sisters and we need to come together so we can impact our world!
- **Eph. 5:2 -** We are called "light in the Lord" and told to walk as children of light. **Light is composed of all the colors of the visible spectrum**. Our eyes can't see the individual colors until they are reflected by different objects. Just as an object reflects a certain color, so does each person in the body of Christ. Each one is needed to make the fullness of our Father who is light! **We need to value each one!**
- The power of one person surrendered totally to God's will can accomplish amazing things! Each of us is meant to reflect Him to those that haven't come home!
- We need to **see the Christ-likeness in each other**. It is time that we **call forth the gifts and treasures we see in others**, and not focus on their imperfections.
- **1 Cor. 12:12-13 –** Paul talks about how each part of the body is important even though some may be more visible than others.
- When we **all flow as one**, in one body there is an increased level of energy released – synergy! **Synergy is the working together of two or more parts to produce an effect grater than the sum of individuals.** Father God desires that we become one so the world can see the goodness, love and power of our God! Are you willing to yield for Him to work in you?

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