

Relationship or Recipe?

THE STORY

Mark 7:31-37/ Isaiah 35:4-6

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS MIRACLE?

Isaiah 55:8-9/ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

(1) Jesus healed the **WRONG GUY**
Matthew 15:24, Mark 7:24-30/ John 21:18-22/ Matthew 20:1-16

(2) Jesus made them **BEG FOR HELP**
Luke 11:1-10, Luke 18:1-8 & Daniel 10:10-14/ Isaiah 45:9

(3) Jesus healed him the **WRONG WAY**
Mark 7:32 & 33-34/ Mark 5:18-20 & 7:36/ 2 Kings 5:1-19/ Isaiah 55:8-9

(4) Jesus told them to **NOT TELL ANYONE**
Mark 7:36/ Hebrews 11:32-39

WHAT ARE WE SEEKING?

Hebrews 11:6

Food for Thought for the week of June 9, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we were reminded of the importance of not turning our relationship with God into a recipe. The following passages paint a picture of the kind of person Jesus is, and what he promises to provide for those who seek him. Jot down what stands out to you in each passage and how it relates to what it means to seek him.

(NIV – New International Version)

Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:1-4 - "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God¹; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

John 14:15-27 - "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be¹⁸ in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"²³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

2. Nehemiah is another person who sought God and had a relationship with him that had quality and depth. Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 and jot down anything that gives you insight into Nehemiah's relationship and communication with God.

Nehemiah 1:1-11 - The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." ⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. ⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. ⁸ "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' ¹⁰ "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand."¹¹ Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.

Looking back at what you wrote, is there anything you want to add, change, or that you are glad you're putting into action in how you seek God?