

Pentecost
(The Feast that Shows God Needs You)

2019



Begin with a Story

- *Teenager who tried to commit suicide several times is in a rehab facility for treatment. Worried parents send their minister to council him. The minister arrives but the teenager shows no interest in being helped. He tells the minister, "Why don't you go away? The chaplain has already been here. The minister asks, "Oh, what did the chaplain say?" The teenager responds, "Something stupid". The minister is curious and asks, "What stupid thing did he say?" The teenager says, "He told me not to commit suicide because God loves me." The minister says, "Yes, I agree with you, that is stupid." Who would love a kid like you...*

Story

- You are an obnoxious brat who mistreats his parents, steals from them to feed your drug addiction, you back talk to them, call them names, etc. Who would love a kid like you. The teenager then asks, “Then what would be a good reason for me not to kill myself?” The minister responds. “Not because God loves you....you do too many hateful things to be a lovable person. You should not kill yourself because God needs you.”

Teenagers and people in general want to feel needed... want to feel that their lives mean something, stand for something...they want to feel necessary and that their lives have a purpose/meaning.

The world doesn't need me....I don't feel needed by my parents...don't feel needed at work...don't feel needed by anyone....so why not just end the pain by killing myself....anyway, I don't feel necessary, who would miss me.

Another Story

- *Once a team of unemployed people were contracted for day labor. They were told they would be paid \$10 per hour. Taken to a field, they were given shovels and told to begin digging a ditch. They dug and dug in the hot sun. The team took a lunch break and after lunch the foreman instructed the team to fill in the ditch they had just dug. “What? Why?” the workers asked.*
- *“That is none of your concern.” said the foreman, “You are being paid to follow instructions.” So, the workers began the long task of filling in the ditch that they had just dug.*

Another Story

- *At the end of the day the ditch was filled in and the laborers were exhausted. The boss came and told the team that if they would return tomorrow they would be paid \$20 per hour, twice what they were hired for that day. The next morning only half of the original team showed up even though they were being paid twice as much. That day followed the same pattern as the day before. Dig a ditch until lunch, fill it in after lunch. “Why are we doing this?” asked the remaining team.*

Another Story

- *That is none of your concern.” said the foreman, “You are being paid to follow instructions.” This is all that they were told.*
- *At the end of the day the ditch was filled in and the laborers were tired. The boss came and told the team that if they would return tomorrow they would be paid \$40 per hour four times what they were originally contracted to work for, and far more than normal manual labor. Yet, the next morning only half of the team from the day before showed up. It seems that even for 4 times the going rate you can't pay most people to do work for which they don't see a need or a purpose.*

Does God Really Need You?

- You think... God is perfect... He does not need anything from me. What can you give someone who has everything.
- Because He is perfect... He's not missing anything... I can't make Him any smarter, any stronger, or any bigger because He is perfect and because He is perfect, He does not need anything from us to make Him more perfect... He is already perfect.

Acts 17:24-25 tells us He does not need anything...

Psalms 15:12 tells us that the whole world is already His...

Deut 10:14 says that He owns the whole earth and everything in it.

If God is perfect and does not need anything from us, then why did He create us...and for what purpose?

You usually create purpose first and then you create the thing that fills that purpose.

Although God can exist without us, He simply does not want to. Although He can exist alone with us human beings, He does not want to...He wants His existence to have meaning...He wants a family of spirit-Christlike beings... the Bible is our family album...it's all about His Plan of Salvation that will result in Him having a family.

God wants to become ONE with us and wants to dwell with us on this earth.

*There Are Two Words in this Scripture That Tells Us
That God Needs Us & Created Us for a Purpose*

- Gen 1:26-28 NKJV Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; have dominion (rule – NIV) over the fish of the sea, over the birds let them of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth ." 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;"
- Did you catch those two words?
- He said, "let them" NOT "let us" have rulership over the earth. ... He will not violate what He has imposed on Himself.

God Needs You

- Man is a spirit in a dirt body and God needs our bodies to carry out His purpose on this earth... He needs our participation.
- Gen 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Man was not good to Him without life.)
- Rom 8:16-17 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,...
- These bodies are also the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 3/16), so we can have both the “spirit of man” and the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

God Needs You

- So we have within us, within these dirt bodies a piece of God. ...a piece of His spirit (breath) that gives our bodies life as well as the gift of the Holy Spirit that gives these bodies the power to carry out our part of what He has assigned us.
- God needs these physical-earthy-dirt bodies in order for Him to accomplish His Plan of Salvation that He has for all mankind.
- He designed His creation so that through His self-imposed edict, He could not bring about His future spirit-like family without the participation of a people willing to join Him in His plan.

God Needs You

- To rescue man in the Flood, He needed Noah. For the creation of the nation Israel, He needed Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. To lead the nation of Israel out of Egyptian bondage, He needed Moses. To defeat Jericho, He needed Joshua.
- We cannot do God's part and God will not do our part. He needs us...He needs our bodies voluntarily cooperating with Him to bring about this family that He wants.
- Luke 18:27He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

*You Are a Result of His Initiated Creation
He Willed for You to Be Born*

- *Did you ask to be born?* No, you gave no one permission to conceive you and bring you into this world. Neither did Adam and Eve. God *initiated* their creation and your creation.
- *Any creator of anything first creates* “purpose for the creation” and then he creates the creation. First he determines the *purpose of a book*, then he writes the book, ...first he creates the *purpose for a building*, then he creates the building, ...first he creates the *purpose for a machine*, then he creates the machine that fulfills that purpose.

*You Are a Result of His Initiated Creation
He Willed for You to Be Born*

- *Ps 139:13-16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (Jer 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you;)*

You are not an accident. Your parents may think of you as an accident, but God intentionally produced you and brought you into this world because He needed you. . . . He needed the unique you with all your unique abilities, personality, characteristics, etc that He needed to fulfill His purpose.

He looked for a man and a woman that would produce a being just like you.

You were brought into this world by God because He needs you. . . .he needs a special people that He can call “mine” to join Him in carrying out His plan.

You are needed!!!

To Those Who Voluntarily Surrender Their Bodies God Calls His Special People

- *Deut 7:6-8 For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. 7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people (there was no contest of which people would be the best and you won), for you were the least of all peoples;*

To Those Who Voluntarily Surrender Their Bodies God Calls His Special People

- *8 but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*
- *We have been brought out of slavery to sin because we have voluntarily surrendered our bodies/our life to His mission/His cause for mankind.*

To Those Who Voluntarily Surrender Their Bodies God Calls His Special People

- *Isa 43:1 But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.*
- *How beautiful it is when a man and a woman marry and become husband and wife....become one....before marriage, the man could not say to the women, "you are mine" and the woman could not say to the man, "you are mine"....but now that they are one, they can say to each other, "you are mine". Once married, they both become the most important person to each other.*

God's Call is like a Marriage Proposal

- When God gave Israel the law (Torah), it was like a marriage proposal...all of Israel said "yes". (Ex 19:7-8 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. 8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do.")
- When Ofie and I said "yes, I will", in our wedding vows, we did not realize what we were saying...for 47 years we have been learning the implications of those vows we took when we each said, "Yes, I will"lots of hard work, .. we don't always love each other, but we always remain each others most important person.

Spring/Summer Festivals & Fall Festivals Outlines God's Plan of Salvation

- *Spring/Summer Holy Days* (*First Coming of Jesus Christ...Suffering Servant*)
 - *Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread*
 - ● *Pentecost (Feast of Weeks/Firstfruits)*
- *Fall Holy Days* (*Second Coming of Jesus Christ...Conquering King*)
 - *Trumpets*
 - *Day of Atonement*
 - *Feast of Tabernacles*
 - *Last Great Day*

What Does All This Have to Do with Pentecost?

- *Luke 24:46-49 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*

He Returned to the Father So That The Holy Spirit Would Come

- *John 16:5-8 But now I go away to Him who sent Me, . . . 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless . . . It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*
- *Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Holy Spirit Arrives on The Day of Pentecost Power to Work the Harvest

- *Acts 2:1-4 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

So What Is Our Part in God's Mission?

- *Be Witnesses/Be Light - Matt 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world....16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*
- *We are not a social service agency, but we need to do good works in our City to shine light on our Messiah and His Word.*
- *We are to observe Torah, not as a religion but as the proclamation of what we believe. Religion does to get....our faith wants to serve our Father through Jesus the Messiah.*

Be a Light by Observing Torah

- *There are 613 Torah instructions...* don't all apply to us, but we are to keep those that apply to us. These are part of our "marriage vows with God" to which we said, "Yes, I will".
- *Will we keep them perfectly?* NO! The OT patriarchs were *declared righteous even though they made mistakes and sometimes gave in to weaknesses*huge mistakes like David with Bathsheba. Mistakes we will make, God allows them and we learn from them. But God *takes unkindly to rebelliousness.*

Be a Light by Observing Torah

- *When we say, “God, you do it”* in a rebellious attitude, He reacts negatively because we are no longer being light/witnesses and it harms His plan of salvation.
- *You want to be connected with God...* draw closer to God... be at one with God as He wants to be with you, here is the answer...
- *Keep His Torah...His marriage vows...* again, you will not keep them perfectly...but every time you keep the Sabbath, Holy Days, not eat unclean foods...you draw close to God and He can work with you through His Spirit to keep more

Be a Light by Observing Torah

- *One of the most difficult Torah* instructions to observe is the principle of tithing and offering...having a budget without tithing/offering being at the top of your budget list instead of the left overs is God's instruction...but if you are not there yet, then do your best....do something that is a sacrifice for you.
- *Just because you can't exercise five times* a week for one hour each time to stay healthy does not mean you should do nothing...whatever you do will be a benefit to your health.
- *Same applies to the Sabbath, Holy Days, etc....*the point is, don't give up....you will get better if your heart is right.

*So we have our marching orders... we have our
assignment...*

- 1) Be Witnesses*
- 2) Be Light*
- 3) Observe Torah*

You can be good at “religion” but lousy at “relationships”.

Work at relationships:

- 1) With God*
- 2) With One Another*
- 3) With People of the world*

One More Scripture

Isa 52:7

*How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who
brings good news, Who proclaims peace,
Who brings glad tidings
of good things, Who proclaims salvation,
Who says to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"*