

Approaching God, John 2:1-5



Approaching God

- Queen Esther has a big problem
 - A decree has gone out that all Jews should be executed because her uncle Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman as decreed by the King and Haman hates the Jews
 - Mordecai commanded Esther to approach the King seeking his favor

Approaching God

- Queen Esther has a problem
 - **Esther 4:11 NIV**, “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”
- Although it may not mean death, there can be serious consequences today when you approach a ruling leader without being invited

Approaching God

- So, my thought went this week went to, how should we approach God when we pray to or worship Him?
 - What should our mindset be?
 - We are told in **Hebrews 4:14** we can approach God's throne with great boldness and confidence
 - **James 4:8 NIV**, "Come near to God and he will come near to you."
 - **Proverbs 9:10 NIV**, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"

Approaching God

- Jesus had started His earthly ministry and those who were close to Him had to adjust their thinking about Him, especially His mother, Mary

Scripture

- **John 2:1-5 NIV**, 1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."
 - 4 "Woman, why do you involve me?" (*AMP, what is that to you and to Me?*) Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Approaching God

- Just imagine the issues Jesus' family would have when Jesus started His earthly ministry
 - He is just Jesus my "*perfect*" brother

Approaching God

- Just imagine the issues Jesus' family would have when Jesus started His earthly ministry
 - **Luke 2:48-52 NIV**, 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." 49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them. 51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Approaching God

- Just imagine the issues Jesus' family would have when Jesus started His earthly ministry
 - U S New Report, “Like every stereotype, the image of the Jewish mother as intrusive and all-powerful has a significant basis in reality.”
 - You can see there is going to come a time when a transition is made from “Jesus the son of Mary” to “Jesus the Son of God”
 - You can see that transition in our verses this morning
 - What do these verses today instruct us in approaching God

We must remember we are speaking to the Son of God when we pray and when we worship

- We are speaking to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords so our human attitude must be checked at the door of prayer and worship
 - We approach Jesus through His love, acceptance, grace, mercy
 - But like Mary we can be so familiar with Jesus we forget who He really is
 - For over 30 years Jesus has been obedient to Mary as the Son of Mary

We must remember we are speaking to the Son of God when we pray and when we worship

- She comes to Jesus with a problem and expects him to do something startling and supernatural because Mary had heard about Jesus in Judea
 - How Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, how the heavens opened and a dove lighted on Jesus' head, and a voice uttered those remarkable words, "This is my beloved Son," (*Matt. 3:17*)
 - She remembered the promises when he was born that he would be the Messiah

We must remember we are speaking to the Son of God when we pray and when we worship

- Along with all the other Jews of that day she expected him, as the Messiah to:
 - To claim the throne of David
 - To somehow drive out the Romans and to fulfill all the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament which included miracles of healing, miracles with nature -- the desert would blossom like the rose, the lion would lie down with the lamb...
 - Now that Jesus has taken the initiative and has called his own disciples, she has a right to expect that he is beginning to fulfill his destiny and clear her name

We must remember we are speaking to the Son of God when we pray and when we worship

- Mary addresses Jesus as her son and for probably the first time Jesus addresses their unique relationship
 - **Verse 4**, “Woman, why do you involve me?” (*AMP, what is that to you and to Me?*)
 - The word woman Jesus used doesn’t have a direct translation in English
 - It comes closest to meaning, “*Highly revered and respect lady*”

We must remember we are speaking to the Son of God when we pray and when we worship

- Jesus modifies their relationship going from *“Jesus the son of Mary”* to *“Jesus the Son of God”* and going forward he will be about the business of the Heavenly Father
 - You hear a little of this in **Luke 2:49 NIV**, “49 Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

We must remember we are speaking to the Son of God when we pray and when we worship

- Just like Mary there are times Jesus need to adjust our attitudes when approaching Him
 - Yes, Jesus is our friend, peacemaker, rescuer, joint heir, Savior
 - But never forget He is the precious Son of God, seated at the right hand of the Father, with all power in heaven and earth, just waiting for the time to claim His eternal earthly throne
 - He is coming back to claim what the Father has given Him
 - If we are not careful, we will approach Him in our arrogance rather than our submission – *“Whatever He says to you, do it.”*

We must always remember what we are asking the Son of God for may not turn out like we think or hope

- Jesus then said to Mary, *"My hour has not yet come."*
 - I don't think Jesus is saying He will not do something because He did
 - When he says, "Woman, why do you involve me?" or "What have you to do with me," that is simply a Hebrew way of saying, *"You don't understand."*
 - He means, "What I do now will not accomplish what you are hoping. It will not persuade the nation that I am the Messiah."

We must always remember what we are asking the Son of God for may not turn out like we think or hope

- Jesus then said to Mary, *“My hour has not yet come.”*
 - “Miracles were indeed part of the plan of God, but they will not convince the nation to accept Me as their King”
 - “My hour (*for what you want*) has not yet come. Another hour is coming for what you are expecting but not at this time.”
 - Perhaps he also is reminding her the fulfillment of a prophecy that was given her when Jesus was presented at the temple, "A sword must pierce your own heart also," *(Luke 2:35)*.

We must always remember what we are asking the Son of God for may not turn out like we think or hope

- We must remember only God sees all the way through our prayer requests
 - **Isaiah 46:9-10 NIV**, “9 for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done.”
 - Jesus didn't tell Mary “No”, He told her “Not now”

We must always remember what we are asking the Son of God for may not turn out like we think or hope

- We must remember only God sees all the way through our prayer requests
 - Like Mary we don't always understand what we are asking and where it may lead
 - Sometimes God's response is "No" when we ask with the wrong motives or something that would bring harm in our relationship with Him or something contrary to Scripture (*James 4:3*)
 - Most of the time His response of "No" is, "No, I have something better planned"

Mary assumed a submissive attitude by telling the servants, “Do whatever he tells you to”

- Mary doesn't try and manipulate Jesus
 - She doesn't cry out to Jesus for her way
 - She doesn't take control the situation to get her way
 - She simply took a submissive stance and instructed the servants to do whatever Jesus said, even if it was nothing

Mary assumed a submissive attitude by telling the servants, “Do whatever he tells you to”

- In prayer we must always have a submissive, obedient attitude
 - **Philippians 4:6 NIV**, 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
 - **MSG**, Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns.

Mary assumed a submissive attitude by telling the servants, “Do whatever he tells you to”

- In prayer we must always have a submissive, obedient attitude
 - **1st Thessalonians 5:18 NIV**, Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.
 - We see this attitude displayed by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, *“Not my will but yours”*

Approaching God

- So, what have we learned from these Scriptures this morning?
 - Always understand who you are addressing when you pray and worship
 - Always understand God knows your request all the way through to the end
 - Always understand God will always do what is best and brings Him the most glory
 - And whatever He does or says to you, accept it as His ultimate love for you and simply accept and do what He commands

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