

Think for a moment.

What attracts humans? Power, Wealth, Physical beauty, Peer pressure and wanting to be liked

What attracts God?

WORK OR WALK

In the book of exodus, God walks into the greatest nation on earth. He walks past some of the greatest wonders Earth has ever seen, the Pyramids, and the Sphinx. God keeps walking past the wealth of the Egyptians, the strength of their large army, the Power of their great Pharaoh.

Now, why else would God come visit this great nation, if not for its prominence, position and all it had to offer God? Wouldn't it have made sense for God to approach Pharaoh? God could have said "The wonders of Egypt are great. Build for me, the true God, a wonder worthy of me. You are great civilization that will be remembered forever and I want to make sure people remember me too." But... no!

God walks past this powerful, wealthy, influential people... and walks up to a group of slaves. God chooses to visit with people who have very little to offer in return.

The truth is; both the Egyptians and the Israelites were in close proximity to God. Both nations had a front row seat to God's miracles and the plagues that would rain down. Both slave and slave-master saw God part the Red Sea. Both nations were exposed to the message that came from Moses – God's messenger.

Although God was in their midst, He walked past one nation and worked in another. It is not enough to be in God's midst. It's not enough to go to church and sit through a sermon. It's not enough to be in a worship service or a small group meeting. It's not enough to wander down to the altar and mumble a few words. If you are doing that today then you might watch God walk right past you.

God will walk past Nations, Churches, Families and Individuals who do not admit their need for Him, but He will without fail show up and work for those who admit their weakness, lack, sickness, pain and hunger...

God tells Moses...

Exodus 3:9 (NIV) And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

It is the Cry of the Israelites that reached God! The weakness of that nation drew God's attention. He was drawn to a people who were powerless to stop the Pharaoh from killing their children. The hunger, pain, fear that was being vocalized reached the very heart of God. They lived in terrible conditions and served hard labor. They were slaves and had no future. - This is who God had come for... A nation of slaves.

What attracts God? God is attracted to the things we usually try to hide.

WORK

We always try to hide our shortcomings... God sees our shortcomings and if we will admit them He will WORK in our life.

God is attracted to Broken people!

King David says

Isaiah 51:17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

God says...

Isaiah 66:2 "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit,

Contrition is sincere remorse. To be filled with a sense of guilt and the desire for atonement.

If you are sad about your past mistakes, if you feel like a loser that can't get anything right, if you feel like a broken person with a broken heart, let me give you good news! You are in a good place. You are esteemed by God. You are in a place where God can come and work.

God is attracted to Broken people!

God works in Hungry People!

Matthew 5:6 (NIV) Jesus said "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Hunger is a compelling need or desire. A painful sensation or state of weakness...

Jesus is saying BLESSED are those in a state of weakness because God Himself will see that need and fill it!

God works in Hungry People!

God Has Compassion when He sees your need!

In the new testament, when Jesus sees people in need a phrase returns time and time again...

Matthew 9:36 (NIV) When JESUS saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 20:33-34 (NIV) "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight."

³⁴ Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Mark 1:41 (NKJV) Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."

If you think that God is angry about your mess-ups, hang-ups, and screw-ups then you've got some bad Theology working! When you show him your need, your brokenness, your sickness or hunger – He is **MOVED WITH COMPASSION**.

God doesn't throw lightning bolts at you – He is moved with compassion at the sight of your struggle!

I've heard people say far too many times – I can't be a Christian – I have a drinking problem, a money problem, a drug problem, a secret sin problem, a sex addiction problem, a family problem, an un-forgiveness problem, a pornography problem, a holiness problem...

I've heard them say - You wouldn't understand... I'm just not perfect.

Are you kidding me!?! I wouldn't understand about imperfection?

Luke 15:10 there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Why do you think the angels Rejoice when a single sinner repents? Do they have to rejoice every time? Are they like robots and they are programmed to shout “yay” every time? Is it like a sporting event and team Heaven has scored a point? Do they act excited because their boss is watching? Are they actually happy for us? I don't think so.

The Angels in heaven get a front row seat to watching God work! They get to see Grace and Mercy flow. They get to see redemption first hand and it is glorious to see. All of heaven rejoices every time we admit our weakness and allow God to do His saving work in our lives.

Do you rejoice every time? We want Redemption to be a place where we rejoice Every Time the work of God is done!

God wants to work in You!

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

God will keep working in you... Until He brings you to completion. None of us are complete right now! God is working in us... In our weakness, in our ignorance, in our sinful state...

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

IMMEASURABLE POWER – when God is at work within us?

I'm talking about admitting your weakness and setting God free to work!

I'm not talking about a license to be irresponsible and wreck-less.

Romans 6:1-2 Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means!

I'm saying if you are a broken person, in need of God, full of hunger, pain, and weakness – You have the attention of God and you can find change for your life.

If you bear your need before God – You will see Him work. You will either watch God work or Walk.

WALK Our admission of need attracts God... Our Pride repels God.

God says

Revelation 3:16-17 (NIV) I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

When someone says they don't need a thing... they don't need God – He Walks on to someone who does...

Mark 2:16:17 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Jesus eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The Pharisees were religious leaders who proclaimed themselves righteous. Jesus came for those who know they aren't righteous. He has come for those that know they aren't healthy.

Those Pharisees didn't know what an opportunity they were missing. They were in close proximity to the Messiah. They too could have shared a meal with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords... but their pride stood in the way and the moment passed.

Today we have an opportunity to draw closer to God just like those Pharisees! This moment, Christ has come for the sick, the weak, the lost, the confused... Will you let foolish pride stand in the way? God will walk past Nations, Churches, and Individuals who do not admit their need for Him. **Will you let God work or will you cause Him to walk?**

In Ezekiel 10 is an account of God's Glory/Spirit departing the Temple. Israel was busy worshipping other gods and not placing any importance upon the true God. It was like they didn't need God... God leaves. He walks out of the gates of the city.

It wasn't too long before Israel found out that they really did need God after all. By then it was too late! Israel would be taken over by a tyrant King and forced into exile.

God will walk past Nations, Churches, and Individuals who do not admit their need for Him!

How many opportunities do we miss?

You can watch God work... or watch Him walk.

URGENCY

Mark 10:46-52 (NIV) ⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Let's go interactive?

Who is the person in need in this story? - Blind Bartimaeus

What is his biggest obstacle? - It's not his blindness. The people walking with Jesus where the biggest obstacle! Christians/Church people can be obstacles.

He hears that Jesus is the one walking by and Bartimaeus starts yelling. Being a blind man he didn't know which direction to yell. He was screaming out in all directions. His URGENCY was disturbing those walking with Jesus. They wanted him to stop but there was no stopping Bartimaeus – He was not going to let Jesus Walk by!

Urgency is important! What does Urgent Worship look like? What does urgent prayer look like? What would it look like if we lived a life that urgently cried out for God?

I know it's the 75th time you've sung How great is our God! Do you realize how URGENTLY you need to sing?

I know this is the 150th sermon you've heard! Do you realize how URGENTLY you need to receive it?

I know it's the 250th time you've been to the altar! Do you realize how URGENTLY you need to talk to God?

You know what makes a powerful church service? Is it great worship music? Is it great Teaching/preaching?

No! Hungry people crying out to Jesus make a Powerful church service!!

This Church, This ALTAR, Your life...

God brings his strength and power into the areas where we admit we are weak and powerless.

God will walk past Nations, Churches, and Individuals who do not admit their need for Him, but He will without fail show up for those who admit their weakness, lack, sickness, and hunger...

Today you have the opportunity to watch God Work... or Walk...