

Rev. Janet R. Doyle
Elmer Presbyterian Church
6th Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 22, 2022
Scripture: John 14: 7-11

Sermon: Wanting More

A little boy was drawing a picture on a piece of paper. His mother came up to him and asked him what he was drawing. The little boy responded, "I am drawing a picture of God." The mother informed him that no one knows what God looks like. The little boy responded to his mother, "They will when I get through drawing this picture."

What kind of mental picture do we have of God? The danger we all face is that we tend to picture God in our own image rather than seeing God as he is revealed in Scripture. When we adjust our concept of God to conform to our thinking, we end up with an inaccurate view of God. We end up creating God into whatever we want God to be and usually we are wanting more.

When the children of Israel made a golden calf in the wilderness, they wanted to recreate God in their own image. Adam and Eve believed Satan's lies about God and failed to seek after God to know him better. An inadequate view of God is the root of many sins.

In Philippians 3:8-11 the apostle Paul says, "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his suffering, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

Seeing God as He is has to do with knowing God's ways and his character. Knowing God's character is the very basis of our faith and trust in God. When we have a relationship with God, our faith in the character of God enables us to trust that God is doing what is best in every circumstance.

Knowing God's character of compassion, love, holiness and justice gives us a new perspective on life, and we begin to view life from God's perspective.

Understanding God's character is the basis of all morality. People today do not want a God who makes demands and interferes with our personal business.

Every time we lose sight of God in our life we begin to do what we believe to be right in our own eyes.

We can only come to recognize our sins when we see God and truly know God.

Moses came to know God when he was on the mountain with God. Moses is given the extraordinary privilege of seeing the back of the Glory of God after God passes by him. Moses couldn't see God's face or his glory straight on because it would have killed him. What Moses does see causes his face to radiate the glory of God and the people tell him he has to wear a veil because of God's glory radiating from him.

Our society wants to create God into whatever we want him to be. The god of our age is a god of human choice and convenience, and to many, there is no god at all they are accountable to. Many people in the world do not want to be in the presence of God. Many people are searching and want more for their lives but realizing that knowing Jesus is also knowing God.

Mark Twain was traveling in Europe with his daughter. No matter what city they visited Mark Twain was honored by royalty and by well-known artists and scientists. Near the end of their journey, his daughter said to him, "Papa, you know everybody but God, don't you?"

It is possible to have friends and know famous people and yet not fully know God. It is tragic, missing a vital relationship with God, through faith in Jesus Christ!,

Even the disciples were missing the connection between God and Jesus. They didn't understand that knowing Jesus means knowing God and knowing the character of God.

In our John 14 lesson today, we continue from our scripture from last Sunday. In today's scripture lesson Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied."

Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do."

All this time the disciples were with the Father because they were with Jesus, but still they wanted more. What they had and what they saw wasn't enough. It seems like we are always wanting more.

Philip's question is one that we ask in different ways. We want to see the Father in all his power and glory like Moses did, but God did come to earth, Immanuel, God with us, walking with us and talking daily to his disciples, but yet, they still didn't know that Jesus and the Father are one.

Jesus is saying, "if you have seen me you have seen the Father, you have seen his Son." Like Father, Like Son!"

The rest of the chapter Jesus essentially says over and over again that, if you love me, you will do what I say and keep my commandments, and that's when you will experience my Father and I in you.

Do you see how the passage today is comparing Jesus' relationship with His Father and our relationship with Jesus?

Over and over in the Gospel of John, Jesus communicates that he is God in the flesh.

Jesus claimed to forgive sins, which only God can do. To back up his claim, he healed the person of their disease, proving his power to forgive.

The miracles Jesus performed are evidence that he was no ordinary man, but that he was God in the flesh. Jesus raised the dead, cast out demons, and healed the sick.

We, who are followers of Jesus, can have a certainty in our hearts that Jesus is God.

Philip felt that he wanted more, he needed to see the Father, he wanted proof of God's love to have greater faith in Jesus. Philip wanted the assurance of God's presence.

Jesus reminded him of something he had said over and over to the disciples. "If you've seen me or heard me, you have seen and heard the Father!" How exciting to be with the Father all the time!

Jesus did the Father's will. He came to demonstrate the Father's love to all of us.

John 1 says, "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God."

John 17: 20 Jesus says in a prayer to his Father, "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me."

Do you believe that Jesus and the Father are one? Do you believe that God loves you so much he came to this world to show you his love?

Seek to know Jesus and you will know the love of God.