

BFF333 It is Time to Seek the Lord

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: Well, very blessed. Can't wait to tell you why.

Scott: By the way, happy birthday. I know I'm a day late, but happy birthday anyway.

Steve: That's OK. Thank you for the birthday greetings. This morning, I get up early. I mean early, early. I'm going to share what I found in God's word, what He showed me, as I was studying. Then, I felt like I really needed to go for a walk by myself, no dogs, nobody else just go see God this morning.

I studied scripture for about an hour, and then I headed out for a walk with God. I sought Him according to the principles of Psalm 100. I sang, I gave thanks, I made a joyful shout, I praised His name. Part way through, I felt like God said, "OK, time to turn back." So I turned around and headed home. Then I stopped for a while on a bridge, and I kept praying. It was awesome.

Then, I came walking up towards our front door, which is glass, and I saw John. When you look in our front door, what you see is the dining room table and John was dusting it with a towel.

I came in to find out that he had set three places, moved all the other chairs in the corner. He made it very clear that he wanted me to make eggs for breakfast for Sandi, John, and me as our birthday breakfast. He had it in his heart that we were going to have a special breakfast together.

I come out into the kitchen and discovered three bowls of yogurt with blueberries and strawberries in them. He gave me a peach to cut. Meat, eggs, peppers, and cheese were set out. As the chef, I had to cut up the peppers and the sausage, and made an egg omelet. That's when I texted you and said I might be a couple of minutes late. We sat down. Sandy prayed, and we ate this wonderful breakfast. What a boy.

The night before we had gone to a nice restaurant and we were singing to each other since Sandy and I share the same birthday. While we were singing Johnny was motioning with both of his arms and pointing to each of us singing, "You, you, both, both, you..."

Then he puts his hand up to be discreet, whispering to the girl waiting on us, telling her he wants a cake. Later she came out, and instead of just little candles, they have sparklers that shoot up about three feet with flames. I was wishing I had my hat on. I didn't want one of these little pieces of burins embers to fall on my bald head.

Steve: Oh, it was. It was awesome. He's an incredible kid. He's got more going than I give him credit for. I don't know how many times my wife and I said, "He really understands these events." I think we're going to get to heaven and he's going to say, "I knew everything that was going on."

Steve: OK. Here we go. These are some of the insights that I received this morning, and which I felt like God put on in my heart today for our podcast. Let's pray.

Father, thank You for how John enjoys his parents. Thank You for his way of honoring us, blessing us, and celebrating us, and our birthdays. What a big heart. Thank You for him. Thank You that we have an opportunity now to, as Your children, celebrate You and bless You and draw near to You.

Thank You for these studies that we've had, and how many times You've met us and revealed things to us. I pray today that as we draw near to You, that You'll draw near to us. Thank you for the blood of Jesus that cleanses us afresh every time we draw near to You. Thank You for Your spirit that's on hand to fill us, and to teach us, and to point us to Christ. We worship You in Jesus name. Amen.

Steve: We've finished most of our studies on the tabernacle, I think. We've talked about how the lessons that David learned which were not relegated to David and a few special people, but he was able to pass those lessons on to Asaph and the sons of Korah. This thought is extremely encouraging to me that we don't have to be Moses number two or David, the third, we can just be who we are.

We're similar to the sons of Korah. Some of us had godly fathers, some of us didn't. But that fact doesn't make any difference, whether we're Asaph, or the sons of Korah, we can seek God.

I would like to have a Zoom call with everybody that listens to these talks and ask, "What have you learned? What's God been saying to you? How have these studies impacted your walk with God?"

Scott: We probably could.

Steve: I would love to. If you're listening, Scott tells you at the end how to contact us. My email address is there, but let's have a Zoom cast sometime, and just hear how these studies on the tabernacle have impacted you because ultimately when I think of the tabernacle, I think of God seeking us, and coming near to His people.

God is not satisfied to be on top of the mountain. He is not content to be in heaven, but has provided a way for us to draw near to Him and for Him to be near to us. This is it. This is what I see when I see the tabernacle. I see that the only way to come to the Father is through His Son. As we've seen, probably 30 times, His son is every aspect of the tabernacle.

Last night when I was driving home from dinner, we took two different vehicles for some reason, and I was alone in the car. I turned on my Bluetooth on my phone, and I listened to Psalm 50. There is a very important passage to me in this chapter.

In 2018, when I was learning how to seek God according to the principles of Psalm 100, I was talking to Him about this new approach. I said, "Am I on the right track? Am I supposed to pursue this, and continue to do this? Is this of You?" I sensed it was. and the verse that He brought to my heart was Psalm 50:23, the last verse, "The one

who offers his sacrifice of thanksgiving, glorifies Me. To one who orders rightly his way or orders his way a right. I will show the salvation of God."

God was talking to my heart and He said, "Yes, this is the way I want you to pursue Me. As you order your way correctly, to seek Me like this, I will show you the salvation of God."

Let's do some deep dives into these words in Psalm 50:23. The one who offers his sacrifice, and the word for sacrifice, SH2076 Zabach means to slaughter or to kill. It is a real sacrifice. Thanksgiving (SH8426–Towdah, thanks or praise. We're offering our sacrifice of thanksgiving.

This is the way we come into His presence now with thanksgiving. We enter into His courts with praise. I'm putting together Psalm 100, Psalm 50, and in my head I'm walking into the tabernacle, so I'm putting all of them together here.

When we come into His presence with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise, we glorify God. "The one who offers his sacrifice of thanksgiving or praise, glorifies me." That's our number one priority. We want to glorify God.

The next phrase says, "To the one who orders rightly." The Hebrew word Sum (SH7760) which means – to put, place, set, or appoint. When I think of that word, I think of the priests, who had appointments with God. They set themselves twice a day, once in the morning, once in the evening, to offer the lambs, fill up the oil in the Holy Place, and make sure there was incense burning. These were appointments which made for their daily rhythm.

They were going to order their way rightly every day to seek God. The word for "way" is Derek (SH1870) which means his ways, his conduct, the roads on his journey. This is what I think that God was communicating to my heart was, I need to develop a rhythm of meeting God during these appointed times, these divine places to connect with Him. I need to order my way aright, and give sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise.

I've been seeking God according to these principles from Psalm 100 for a couple of years now, and it's produced such good fruit. I've connected with God. This approach works. If we will set ourselves to offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, if we will order our way, develop a rhythm, meet God on our journey, He will show, reveal, show us the salvation of God. It's pretty clear to me that Yesha is Jesus. He's the salvation of God. This expression, "show the salvation of God" in the Hebrew is Arennu Beyesa Eloim. Arennu (SH – Strong's Hebrew – 7200) means show and derived from the root Raah, to see. Beyesa (SH3468–from *Yesha–salvation) and Elohim is God (SH430).

Yesha (SH3468) is used 36 times in the OT and here are samples in two Psalms:

Psalm 18:2 Jehovah is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my **salvation**, my stronghold.

Psalm 18:35 You have also given me the shield of Your **salvation**, and Your right hand upholds me; and Your gentleness makes me great.

Psalm 18:46 Jehovah lives, and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of my **salvation**

Psalm 85:4 Restore us, O God of our **salvation** ...

Psalm 85:7 Show us Your lovingkindness, O Jehovah, and grant us Your **salvation**.

Psalm 85:9 Surely His **salvation** is near to those who fear Him, ...

Psalm 85:10 Lovingkindness and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

This last verse reveals Jesus. "Loving kindness and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other." We've talked about that verse, that's when mercy was on top of the law. Mercy and truth. Loving kindness and truth met.

In John 1, "Grace and truth have met together in Christ" Even though the word "Yesha" isn't used in the 10th verse, clearly speaking of Jesus. Psalm 85 uses that word "Yesha" again. Boy, I was really edified to find Jesus in this word, my salvation. "I will show you the salvation of God," which is Jesus.

When you put all these words together, we have 'show the salvation of God,' or 'show Jesus,' or 'see Jesus.' For Jesus is the salvation of God. In John 12:20 we find a similar expression, "Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

I just finished the Chronicles. When you read 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, you see that there were men that were determined to follow God, and there were men who were determined to follow Baal. There was no in between.

The faith of the whole nation varied according to who was king. When the good king was on the throne, the nation was blessed, and you had some great kings and prophets. You had Hezekiah and Isaiah..

You also had some sad ones, like Amaziah, who set himself to seek God at the beginning of his reign, and then fell away and ended up a miserable situation.

I love this expression which is used to describe Jehosaphat in 2 Chronicles 19:3, "You have set your heart to seek God. 2 Chronicles 19:3 "You have set (SH3559 Kun, set determined, made firm) your heart (SH3824 Lebab-heart) to seek (SH1875 Darash-to seek, inquire) God."

The word set, is Kun, (SH3559) which means set determined, and made firm.

Jehosaphat set his heart. The heart is critical. (SH3824 Lebab). There is so much in Scripture about the heart. We are to love God with all our heart. David was a man after God's heart. Here are a few verses I thought of,

Deuteronomy 4:29, "You will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search after Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Deuteronomy 5:29, "Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear Me and to keep all My commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!

Deuteronomy 6: 5, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."

Jehosaphat set his heart to seek God. He firmly determined, he purposed in his heart to seek, which is "darash (SH1875)" to seek or inquire of God.

One of my new favorite chapters in the Bible is 1 Chronicles 16. This is when David is instructing the Levites and the priests. Now, but the tabernacle is no longer a part of their culture. The temple is now the center. The ark has been moved from the tabernacle into the temple. He says, "Now, your job is to offer thanksgiving and praise."

It's what we started with in Psalm 50. The one who offers his sacrifice of thanksgiving, and praise. He said, "This is what you going to do." In the eleventh verse, he has this wonderful passage, "Seek the Lord and His strength. Seek His presence continually." I didn't look it up, but I'd be willing to bet that that word "presence" is "seek His face continually."

2 Chronicle 7: 14, "If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek my face." Psalm 27:8, "You have said, 'Seek My face.' My heart says to you, 'Your face, Lord, do I seek.'"

This is the question on the table, where are we? Are we inspired to set a rhythm? Are we determined to order our ways in a way that we can seek God, and seek His presence continually, and seek His face?

It says in Psalm 105, which is reiterating 1 Chronicles 16, "Seek the Lord and His strength. Seek His presence continually." Now, let's bring it back to the tabernacle.

John 1: 14 says, "The word became flesh and tabernacled among us." Jesus is the tabernacle. He came and dwelt among us. He lived with us. He tabernacled with us. He pitched His tent, committed to us.

John 15:4. "Abide in Me, tabernacle in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." Before I close in prayer, what's going on in your mind and heart, Scott?

Scott: Two things, Isaiah 55:6, "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is near." That feels really poignant to what you're just saying, and what we're going through right now. It's such an urgent time. I don't know dates and times, but it sure feels like there's an urgency to what's going on in the world, and we need to seek Him while He may be found.

Steve: Yes, absolutely. As I was out walking and praying this morning, I thought, in the last days it says, number one, a lot of believers are going to heap up teachers according to their own lust. They're going to find sermons and preaching that they

really like. It talks in Jeremiah about these false prophets who said, "Oh, yeah, everything will be fine. Peace, peace, peace." Right before Jerusalem was overthrown. Then it also says that in the last days, people will be hungry for God's word. There's going to be this division. There are going to be those that they don't want to hear God's word, they don't want to hear the truth, they just want to hear things that make them feel good.

On the other hand, you're going to have those people which I believe is our audience that are hungry. They're thirsty. They want to know God's word. They want to know God Himself.

Steve: That's exactly what Jesus says in John 15, He says, "Abide in My word, abide in My love, abide in Me, in My presence." This is it. I think God is holding it right out to us. My hands are open by the way right now.

Let's pray. Father, in Jesus' name, thank You for these scriptures that encourage us. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for Jesus' righteousness, righteousness in the flesh, for they shall be satisfied.

Thank You that we have a heart, that we're still listening to You, we're seeking You. I pray that You'll give us an appetite, a thirst to tabernacle with You who came to tabernacle with us.

I know that this is Your will because it says in the word of God, "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, in whatever we ask, we know that we have the request that we have asked from Him."

Father, here's our request. Satisfy our hunger and our thirst, increase our hunger and our thirst. Give us an appetite to seek God, and remove all the obstacles that are hindering us from ordering our way aright so that we can see Jesus.

I pray that You'll remove the obstacles, that You'll give us fresh faith, fresh courage, fresh hope, and that You'll make a level plane for us to run into Your arms, to see You, and to believe in You in a whole new way. Bless us to that end, each of us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.