

Wise Men Still Seek Him and Bring Him Gifts! Pt3
Friends!
Slide Notations

Recap...

Wise Men... *Are stirred by the signs of life, and of the times, that point to God! Get to where He is as quickly as they can! Bring Him gifts suitable to who He is!*

As the Lover of Men's Souls, we bring Him salvations!

As the Pure and Holy One we bring Him little packages of Purity!

Gifts of Purity... *Don't always come easily, quickly or in big packages... Most purity gifts are won, and given, little pieces at a time... And God, patient for the harvest, loves the little things we bring Him!*

As long as we are growing – He is very patient with us!

It's when we are no longer productive that we need to be concerned!

Jesus: "I am the True Vine and My Father is the Gardener. Every branch attached to Me that bears no fruit, He will take away and every branch that bears fruit, He will purge so that it brings forth more fruit..." Jo 15.2

One way or the other God is into our "purity!"

Let's add another "perception" of Him so we can add to His "perfect gift" list!

John 15.9-11 As the Father loves you, so do I! I want you to be at home in My love! If you do the things I have told you, you will nestle into My love, even as I have done My Father's commands and live in the heart of His love! I'm saying this because I want the joy I have to be yours and I want your joy to be full!

John 15.12-14 I want you to love each other with the same type of love I have given to you! It's the greatest kind of love – the God kind of love that lays down life for those you love! You will really know Me as your friend and what I'm about if you do this!

John 15. 15 From now on... I will not call you My servants (doulous) because servants aren't always privileged to know what their masters are doing... from now on I call you "friends" (philous) because I am sharing with you the things My Father has shared with Me!

1John 4.10 God's love for us is captured in this, not that we loved Him and wanted to be near to Him, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to clear away our sins... the very things that damaged and took us away from our relationship with Him in the first place!

Rom 5.8-10 And God commended His love toward us, in this... that while we were still sinners, making us His enemies, Christ came and died for us, justifying us with God, saving us from wrath, giving us life!

The One we seek is our "Friend!"

And this is a necessary perspective for us to enter into intimate life with God!

Because a faith without intimacy is nothing more than vain religion!

Friends w/God?

It's an amazing concept!

There was a great gulf between us and God... *a deep groove/sin*

Jesus bridged it! Is53, Col 1.21

The engineering – Genius! 1C2.8

The construction – Expensive! J19.17 Gal 6.14 Phil 2.8 Col 1.20

Passage is toll-free! R5.15ff

Pass is Faith! H11.6 Gal 2.20

Friends w/God?

What did it take to make friends from enemies?

Natural Realm: forgiveness, submission, discussion, confrontation, patience, time...

Spiritual Realm: willingness, desire, sacrifice, death, blood...

And what will it take us to make friends from our enemies? Same stuff!

J.I. Packer... There is a tremendous release in knowing God's love for me is utterly realistic! It is based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me! So that no discovery now can disillusion Him about me! There is certainly great cause for my humility in the fact that God sees all the twisted things about me that my fellow man cannot see and that He sees more corruption in me than I can see in myself and at the same time He wants to be my friend! And He desires my friendship so much that He gave His own son so that He could have that relationship with me!"

Friends? What does it take to make a friend?

"He that wants friends must show himself to be *friendly!*"

Sympathy

"No greater love has anyone than this, that they lay down life...!"

Sacrifice

Carnegie... "I look for good men with potential and develop them like a miner goes for gold... that means moving a lot of dirt, stone, and rubbish but I keep digging because I'm not after dirt, but gold... and when I find it I weigh, purify and polish it!"

Friends?

What does it take to make a friend?

"Go and tell them great things"

Sharing

"And they didn't allow him to get in harms way... and other friends implored him to stop..."

Securing

"You're impossible! Your opinions have a slap in them for everyone who differs with you. Your friends find that they enjoy themselves better when you're not around!"

That confrontive friend gave the world the Friendship Ambassador; Benjamin Franklin

Jesus...

Believed the best for/about us!

He took the first step, putting us before Himself!

He gave us, and gives us His very best efforts/Word/Spirit!

He always gives us another opportunity to get it right...

And when we do that for others, we bring Him gifts...

Jesus...

"You are My friends if you love others with the same love I have loved you with..."

"You are My friends if you do the things I am telling you..."

"And when you have done these things to the least of these – you have done it for Me!