

God Wants You

John 15:12 – 19

I. Intro

A. Humans “hardwired” for eternity; Ecclesiastes 3:11 (ESV)

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

- i. God made us to be eternal – all at one time or another have thought about what will death be like; not just made for this life (meaningless, and of no purpose) but made for what comes after this life
- ii. All humans have God-planted instinct that He exists and there has to be more to life than just this physical world, and many spend their whole life trying to determine what that is – it’s seeking after the spiritual instead of just the physical

B. Jesus told Nicodemus that all people must be *born* again (*born of water and the spirit*) in order to see kingdom of God, meant life isn’t just found in physical birth but also in a spiritual birth

C. This spiritual birth is combination of the instinct implanted in us of eternity and God drawing us to Himself – God pursues us, God wants you

D. Biggest challenge all face is the “noise of life”; busyness, routine, clutter get in the way of our spiritual life and our relationship with God; connecting with God (personal, intimate relationship through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ) requires that we tune out the “noise”/chaos of life in order to tune into the spiritual aspect of life

E. **Illustration:** Orchestra tuning up – sounds like absolute chaos; one particular instrument plays the “tuning note” and all players in orchestra tune their instruments to that one distinct note

- i. Voice of God is our spiritual “tuning note”, continually penetrating the noisy chaos of life wanting us to “tune” to Him and lead us to experience that spiritual birth – God wants you!

F. Focus today: so much emphasis placed on us making decision to follow God (that’s important), but reality is before we chose God, He chose us

G. **READ John 15:12 – 19**

II. God Knows Us

A. God knew us before we’re even born, even before conception (mind-blowing), and He has a purpose already designed for us

B. God told prophet Jeremiah: Jeremiah 1:4-5 (ESV)

4 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you (**chose specifically for a purpose**); (**then tells Jeremiah what purpose was**) I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

C. Isaiah the prophet’s words: Isaiah 49:1 (ESV)

1 Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. (**Such a purpose for Isaiah’s life that God even gave him his name**)

D. Isaiah’s prophecy of the coming Messiah: Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

E. Don’t know if God specifically gave you your name, but do know that God knows you just as intimately and He has a specific plan and purpose for your life – that’s why, God wants you!

III. God Chose Us

A. **REFER v. 14, 15**; slaves/servants don’t usually get to choose who their masters are, it’s normally the masters who choose the slaves/servants; Jesus says, *no longer do I call you servants ... I have called you friends*

B. **REFER v. 16**; main God-defined plan and purpose for all human beings – to believe in His son and *go and bear fruit* – lead others to believe in His Son so that they too will *go and bear fruit* and on and on and on

C. 3 examples from scripture – God chose people and finally let them in on His plan and purpose He had for them even before they were born:

i. Moses – **READ Exodus 3:1 – 10**

ii. Gideon – **READ Judges 6:1 – 14**

iii. Simon Peter – **READ Luke 5:1 – 11**

D. Ask ourselves some questions about these three:

i. **1** – Were they taken by surprise or had they expected God to show up?

ii. **2** – Did they feel they deserved God’s invitation or did they feel unworthy, inadequate?

iii. **3** – Were they surrounded by life-as-usual, or did God call them because they had nothing else going on in their lives at the moment?

iv. **4** – Were they pursuing God when God appeared to them?

v. **5** – Were they doing something noble/admirable/some great work when God called them ... or just their typical, everyday work?

E. God chose these 3 men because God wanted these 3 men – and God wants you!

F. David, in one of his psalms wrote: Psalm 139:16 (ESV)

16 ... in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

IV. God Holds Us

- A. As we become aware of God pursuing after us, something that ignites within – an appetite to search for God and find Him
- B. Deuteronomy 4:29 (ESV)
29 ... from there 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.
- C. Erwin McManus, book “Soul Cravings” quote: *My soul doesn't crave something from God, my soul craves God* – same for all human beings and searching for meaning/purpose in this life
- D. When most think of “eternal life” they think of heaven and “after physical death”; Jesus give more detailed definition of “eternal life” - John 17:3 (ESV)
3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
- E. Once we know how intimately God has known us because He created us in His image, how God chose us long before we chose Him, it's then we have hope and assurance that God holds us for His ultimate plan/purpose – eternal life, to spend eternity with Him

V. Close

- A. REFER v. 12
- B. 1 John, some call “love” book, just as many refer to 1 Corinthians 13 as “love” chapter: 1 John 4:7-10 (ESV)
7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.
10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- C. GOD WANTS YOU!