

## As PG continues to teach us about friendship, relationship and knowing God

- There have been men who have struggled with deeper levels of intimacy
- Some because they have had challenges with views of their own natural father
- But many more because they want to enter His presence on their own terms: choosing not to live a life of righteousness
- But asking God to enter into their atmosphere of compromise

### Exodus 32:1-6 KJV

“And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.”

Exodus 32:1-6 KJV

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:”

Exodus 32:7 KJV

- There is another view that scholars have about the golden calf based on some ancient religious practices
- That belief was that these calves and other animals were made as a pedestal or vehicle for their invisible gods to ride on and they would worship towards that image because they could see it and believed their god was on it.
- **Scripture here says that Aaron said that tomorrow is the feast to the LORD / Yahweh**
- So what some scholars believed was that the Israelites created this vessel for God to ride on because Moses was taking too long - “we’re going to bring God down here”
- They were saying “no God, You come and ride on this”
- Come ride on this man-made vessel - come into our atmosphere, our environment of disobedience, our sinful debauchery, on our terms
- If you’re in ministry this could be your ministry, your song choice, your teachings, your lifestyle - the way you do church

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

James 4:8 NKJV

- In the instructions of how to draw near to God is with a pure heart

“Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

Psalms 24:3-5 NKJV

- This scripture does not say you have to be perfect
- Clean hands means you have washed away or rejected your sinful ways
- And a pure heart means that you have an authentic motivation to know and be with the Father
- The scripture here says that you will receive blessings and righteousness when you do that
- He has righteousness waiting for you to make you righteous when you draw near to Him with pure motivation
- **This is not about being perfect**

**God won't meet you on your terms but He will meet you where you are if you come to Him with a pure heart.**

- You just have to run towards Him
- The order begins with you: Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you

## **Turn to Joshua 7**

### **After the supernatural victory in the battle of Jericho in Joshua 6**

- Joshua took a portion of his army to fight his next battle against Ai - a battle they should have won but were defeated
- Joshua went before the Lord and fell to the ground in complete distress
- Asking why Lord - why!

“But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel.”

Joshua 7:1 NKJV

“So the Lord said to Joshua: “Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also **put it among their own stuff.**”

Joshua 7:10-11 NKJV

- They have added things that were accursed in with the blessings that God has given them
- Men this sin of Achan - the sin of disobedience and mixture is what keeps us from entering into the presence of God
- **Compromise occurs when we add common things, sinful and impure things and thoughts to the blessings of God**
- And then we want to enter into His presence by saying - Lord come ride on this - be with me on my terms
- Where I am most comfortable around the things and thoughts of the world I have collected
- The things that keep my flesh satisfied and comfortable

***Comfort is the curse of a compromised gospel.***

***“Don’t be obsessed with money but live content with what you have, for you always have God’s presence. For hasn’t he promised you, “I will never leave you, never! And I will not loosen my grip on your life!””***

**Hebrews 13:5 TPT**

- We have a promise of His presence but we have to meet with Him on His terms not our own

**What if Achan would have had Paul’s heart and motivation?**

***“[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him... Phil 3:10***

Let’s back that up just 3 lines of scripture to hear how Paul prepares his heart to know our Lord more intimately

***“I once thought these things(religious practices) were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith.”***

**Philippians 3:7-9 NLT**

***“[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope]”***

**Philippians 3:10 AMPC**

- We have to value His presence more than any spoils of war

**CLOSE:**

**I said before scripture says draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you**

- And I know that requires us to move first but the truth is God has already made the first move

***“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

**Romans 5:8 NKJV**

- God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son
- He made the first move to make a way for us to enter into His presence - His way

**NOW ITS OUR MOVE!**

