

**First:** Think of your top 3 questions, or maybe just your top 1 question for God, and at the end of this teaching, I will ask you to raise your hand if God answered it.

# Innocence

Luke Chapter 15

Through the eyes of the Father and

Jesus the **Firstborn** Col.1:15,18, Rom.8:29



1967 Richmond, Virginia

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## Luke 6 – Choosing the 12 appointed as Apostles

<sup>12</sup> It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup> And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles (special messengers): <sup>14</sup> Simon, whom He also named *Peter*, and *Andrew* his brother; and *James* and *John*; and *Philip* and *Bartholomew*; <sup>15</sup> and *Matthew* and *Thomas*; *James the son of Alphaeus*, and *Simon* who was called the Zealot; <sup>16</sup> *Judas the son of James*, and *Judas Iscariot*, who became a traitor.

<sup>17</sup> Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and *there* was a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, <sup>18</sup> who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. <sup>19</sup> And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing *them* all.

**Testimony** - 15 years old, just saved, while in a small house church meeting, I experienced my own innocence in the presence of Jesus Himself. The essence of the Holy Spirit's anointing upon Jesus was His innocence before the Father. Without any preconceived ideas, concepts or impressions, that same innocence of being unconditionally loved by the Father is what I felt during that visitation. The nature of Jesus' innocence is what He carried during His ministry & why he was able to connect w/so many regardless of their history or temperament.

Jesus most intimate desire before the Father  
for **you** - John 17

<sup>26</sup>I have revealed to them who you are  
and I will continue to make you even more  
**real** to them,  
so that they may experience the same endless  
love that you have for me,  
for your love will now live in them, even as I live  
in them!" ~Jesus

**Exercise:** Take a moment and think of a time when you were young (any age) where you had an experience of innocence, like playing w/your toys or w/friends, cuddled by your Mom, Dad or grandparent, a birthday party or something endearing, fun or creative etc. Remember the detail of your feelings and maybe something that stood out to you.

- You have made a mental note of the questions you have w/God and your own experience of innocence, so now I want you to ask Him something personal:
- *God, what do you think about **me**?*
  - (at the end I'll tell you what God said to me)

## 1. Who is God and what is His character?

- The Innocence of Jesus in the eyes of the Father
- The heart of the father towards the prodigal son - Luke 15

## 2. Who am I to this God?

- The Innocence of Peter in the eyes of Jesus - “do you love me?” John 21

## 3. What does it mean in terms of relationship with God and how do I matter?

- The Innocence of the apostle Paul & others in the eyes of Jesus

- ❑ Common belief: God is good, we're bad, so we just need to try harder? Really??!! Is that the gospel?
- ❑ We do not have a sin problem per se, we have an identity problem. Peter is a good example.
- ❑ But some may ask, why do I still sin? The only reason believers sin is they forget their identity.

## 1. Who is God and what is His character?

“When I stand up to preach the gospel, I often preach to people who have no idea who God is, because they worship idols... very terrible idols. They spread a table before their gods, and I tell them that the Christian God does it the other way around. He spreads the table before His children. And in the other religions, the people always seek god, but in the Christian faith, **God seeks man.**”

~Reinhard Bonnke

The entire Bible is about this very thing...

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## 1. Who is God and what is His character?

- The Innocence of Jesus the **firstborn** in the eyes of the Father
- Jesus changed everything with 1 word “**Father**” (**Abba**)
- “Jesus did not come to show us what God could do. He came to show us what one man could do who was rightly related to God his Father.” ~Bill Johnson
- Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:6
- Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matt.5:48
- The heart of the father towards the prodigal son - Luke 15

## 2. Who am I to this God?

The Innocence of Peter in the eyes of Jesus

- *Peter 1.0* - I will make you a fisher of men Lk.5:8
- *Peter 2.0* - Peter walks on water Matt. 14:28
- *Peter 3.0* - Peter – “you are the Christ” Matt. 16:16
- *Peter 4.0* - Jesus asks - *Do you Love me?* John 21
- *Peter 10.0* - Many healed by Peter’s shadow - Acts 5

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## Jesus Calls His First Disciples Luke 5 (Peter 1.0)

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One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

<sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

<sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "**Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!**"

<sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "**Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.**"

<sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed Him.**

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## Jesus Walks on the Water ..... with Peter 😊 - Matt 14 (*Peter 2.0*)

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. <sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." <sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

<sup>34</sup> When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. <sup>35</sup> And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him <sup>36</sup> and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

## Jesus reminds Peter of who he is – John 21 *(Peter 3.0)*

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “**Feed my lambs.**”

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “**Take care of my sheep.**”

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “**Feed my sheep.** <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “**Follow me!**”

## The Apostles Heal Many – Acts 5 (*Peter 4.0*)

<sup>12</sup> At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. <sup>13</sup> But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup> And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*, <sup>15</sup> to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. <sup>16</sup> Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were **all** being healed.

### 3. What does it mean in terms of relationship with God and how do I matter?

- The Innocence of the apostle Paul & others in the eyes of Jesus
- **King David** – “So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the Lord and worshiped” 2 Sam. 12:20
- **Matthew** was a tax collector, considered 100% dishonest – no conscience and served the Romans (enemy of the Jews) – Mark 2:13-17 (AMP)
- **Nathanael** – “Behold an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile (no deceit, a man of integrity)” John 1:47
- **Paul** – set apart from his birth, yet was a murderer – Gal. 1

- *God, what do you think about **me**?*

“Bob, I have always liked the way  
I made you”

We have become his poetry, a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny he has given each of us, for we are joined to Jesus, the Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfill it! Eph. 2:10 TPT

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