

**SERIES: CULTURE CLASH II
SERMON: MADE TO CRAVE
8-15-21**

I. YOU WERE MADE FOR MORE THAN THIS LIFE

John 4: 4-13 He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

¹¹ "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

¹³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

**THIS WOMAN WAS MADE FOR SOMETHING MORE-
MORE THAN WHAT SHE HAD KNOWN.
MORE THAN WHAT SHE HAD TASTED OF THE WORLD.
SHE WAS MADE FOR MORE.**

ILLUSTRATION:

When we first fall in love, when we first marry, when we finally break into our chosen career, when we at last get that weekend house—these breakthroughs in life bring an anticipation of something which, as it turns out, never occurs. We eventually discover that our desire for contentment is a longing no relationship or career or achievement, even the best possible ones, can ever satisfy. The satisfaction fades even as we close our fingers around our goal. Nothing delivers the joy it seemed to promise.

And continually nothing in life gives us the satisfaction and fulfillment we seek. And there is a gnawing emptiness that nothing seems to fill. Many of us avoid the emptiness through busyness or denial. But staying busy or ignoring it doesn't make it go away.

There are several ways to respond to this emptiness:

1)**BY BLAMING THE THINGS THEMSELVES** – by finding fault in everyone and everything around you. You believe that a better spouse, a better career, a better boss or salary will finally give you the joy you seek. Many of the most successful people of the world are– bored, discontented, running from new thing to new thing, often changing counselors, mates, partners, or settings.

2)**BY BLAMING YOURSELF** – by trying harder to live up to standards. Many people believe they have made poor choices or have failed to measure up to challenges and to achieve the things that would give them joy and satisfaction. Such people are wracked with self doubts and tend to burn themselves out. They think, “If only I could reach my goals, then this emptiness would be gone.” But when they reach one goal it does not bring the satisfaction they desire and so they must strive for another.

3)**BY BLAMING THE UNIVERSE ITSELF** – by giving up seeking fulfillment at all. This is the person who says, “Yes, when I was young I was idealistic, but at my age I have stopped howling after the moon.” This makes you become cynical, you decide to repress that part of yourself that once wanted fulfillment and joy. But you become hard, and you can feel yourself losing yourself and all compassion, and joy.

**KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY BEGINS WITH A RECOGNITION THAT
THERE IS SOMETHING MORE.**

II. YOU WERE CREATED WITH A VOID THAT ONLY GOD CAN FILL

Blaise Pascal, the French philosopher and mathematician, wrote.....

“Within each human being there is a God-shaped void.”

ILLUSTRATION:

A black hole. This was a term that has always puzzled me. They say it is a "hole in the cosmos", but how can a cosmos have a hole in it? As it turns

out, the gravitational pull in a black hole is so great that not even light escapes its pull. The black hole sucks everything in its vicinity into itself. In fact, it's like it is trying to fill its hole with anything at hand. Unfortunately, it isn't very successful.

THE HUMAN NEED TO FILL THIS VOID IN OUR HEARTS IS LIKE A VACUUM. IT SUCKS IN EVERYTHING IN ITS REACH.

**WE WERE MADE WITH A VOID THAT ONLY GOD CAN FILL.
WITHIN EVERY HEART THERE EXISTS AN INTENSE YEARNING AND HUNGER TO KNOW GOD.**

C.S. Lewis said “Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing.”

**NOTHING IN LIFE FILLS THAT VOID.
NOTHING IN LIFE SATISFIES THE GNAWING
EMPTINESS INSIDE OF US.**

**NO ACCOMPLISHMENT, NO ACHIEVEMENT, NO POSSESSION, NO
RELATIONSHIP CAN SATISFY US.**

**NOTHING CAN SATISFY THE HUNGER OF OUR SOULS EXCEPT A
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

**HE IS THE LIVING WATER THAT WHEN YOU DRINK OF HIM YOU WILL
NEVER THIRST AGAIN.**

**HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE THAT SATISFIES THAT INDESCRIBABLE
HUNGER.**

Psalm 42:1-2 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

**WE WERE MADE WITH A NEED TO CRAVE AN INTIMATE, PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

**WE NEED TO ASK WHERE CAN I GO AND
MEET WITH YOU GOD?**

III. YOU WERE MADE TO WORSHIP SOMETHING

John 4:23-24 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Worship is - when you give all of yourself to or for the glory of a person or thing

SO the entire human race worships. Some people would be like no way i don't worship anything! What about work, what about money, sex, power, kids, spouses.

**WE WILL ALWAYS TRY TO WORSHIP SOMETHING.
IF NOT GOD, WE WILL CHOOSE SOME OTHER OBJECT OF ULTIMATE
DEVOTION TO GIVE OUR LIVES MEANING.**

**EVERYONE IS A WORSHIPPER.
THE QUESTION IS ARE YOU GOING TO DIRECT YOUR WORSHIP TO THE
CREATOR GOD OR CREATED THINGS?**

**GOD MADE US TO CRAVE, TO DESIRE EAGERLY, TO WANT GREATLY AND
LONG FOR HIM.**

**BUT SATAN WANTS TO DO EVERYTHING TO REPLACE OUR CRAVING
FOR GOD WITH SOMETHING ELSE.**

**GOD NEVER INTENDED FOR US TO WANT ANYTHING MORE THAN WE
WANT HIM.**

**>SO WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS NEED TO CRAVE?
>WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS GNAWING EMPTINESS INSIDE OF US?
>WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS DRIVING DESIRE TO WORSHIP
SOMETHING?**

**WE SEEK TO KNOW GOD PERSONALLY.
HOW DO WE GET TO KNOW GOD PERSONALLY?**

1. ACCEPT THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is the Holy Spirit, who brings us to new life in Christ in the first place. But that is only the beginning.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.

Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

TO BE CLOSE WITH JESUS IS TO BE CLOSE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

When Jesus returned to heaven, He handed over to the Holy Spirit His role of teaching, nurturing, strengthening, guiding, and encouraging His followers; the Holy Spirit brings us into a close friendship with Christ. The Spirit now dwells in us and reveals Christ to us in ever-deeper ways, empowers us, imparts spiritual gifts for ministry and kingdom mission, and guides and directs us to glorify Jesus in everything we do – and much more.

- >Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you each day (Eph. 5:18);**
- >Seek to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16)**
- >Manifest the fruit of His presence in your life (Gal. 5:22–24)**

2. COMMUNICATE WITH GOD

Prayer is our primary way of communicating with Him. It is essential for knowing God personally.

**TO KNOW SOMEONE PERSONALLY YOU MUST
COMMUNICATE WITH THEM.**

**IF YOU ARE NOT PRAYING - THEN YOU ARE NOT WALKING IN A
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

The Spirit's normal way of guiding us in our prayers is by prompting us through the Scriptures to pray for things that are agreeable to the will of

God and will be granted (1 John 5:13–14). This seems to happen more often when we are quietly listening for His word on a particular matter.

>The Psalms are called “the prayer book of the church,” because they give us so many examples of what to pray across the whole range of life’s experiences.

>And the many promises of God throughout the Bible give us even more.

Talk with God daily in a quiet, undistracted place. Take time away to be alone with Him when you sense the need.

3. READ YOUR BIBLE

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

We have already said that communication is essential for knowing anyone, including God; and it is primarily through the words of Scripture that God speaks to us. These are God-breathed words that the Holy Spirit inspired holy men of old to record over the centuries.

ILLUSTRATION:

What if someone you wanted to get to know very personally and intimately had written down their desires, their goals, their plans, things that were most important to them in a book. And they had written down their history and recorded specific things that had happened in their life. Wouldn’t you want to read that book?

THE BIBLE IS OUR MAIN SOURCE TO KNOW WHO GOD IS - WHAT HE IS LIKE AND WHAT HIS WILL IS, HIS PLANS AND PURPOSES ARE, WHAT HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST AND WHAT HE WILL DO IN THE FUTURE.

>Read Scripture daily, asking God to open the eyes of your heart and teach you (Ps. 119:18; 1 Cor. 2:12; Eph. 1:16–20).

>Meditate on God’s Word and memorize key verses.

Meditation takes biblical truth deeper into our minds and hearts with powerful effect. But that effect occurs only as you take to heart what you read and meditate on and

>Become a doer of the word; otherwise you will not grow spiritually but only become self-deceived (James 1:22–25).

4. BECOME CONNECTED IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The church is meant to be a vital incubator for growing in a relationship with God. The church is not a building or an institution. The church is Christ's body on earth; a relational community.

THE CHURCH IS OUR FAMILY.

IN IT WE MEET CHRIST IN ONE ANOTHER AND EXPERIENCE THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

ILLUSTRATION:

Being friends with someone who hates your best friend.

**YOUR BEST FRIENDS SHOULD BE FRIENDS OF CHRIST.
TO BE INTIMATE WITH CHRIST IS TO BUILD
CHRIST-CENTERED FRIENDSHIPS.
BE CONNECTED IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.**

CLOSING:

You may feel no need or interest to know God at all. This does not mean you should stay uncommitted. If you were created by God, then you owe him your life, whether you feel like it or not. You are obligated to seek him and ask him to soften your heart, open your eyes, and enlighten you.

If you say, "I have no faith," that is no excuse either. You need only doubt your doubts. No one can doubt everything at once — you must believe in something to doubt something else. For example, do you believe you are competent to run your own life? Where is the evidence of that?

Why doubt everything but your doubts about God and your faith in yourself? Is that fair? You owe it to God to seek him.

What if you're not ready to proceed?

Make a list of the issues that you perceive to be barriers to your crossing the line into faith.

>Content issues. Do you understand the basics of the Christian message—sin, Jesus as God, sacrifice, faith?

>Reasoning issues. Are there intellectual problems you have with Christianity? Are there objections to the Christian faith that you cannot resolve in your own mind?

>Cost issues. Do you perceive that a move into full Christian faith will cost you dearly? What fears do you have about commitment?