

# Discipleship

## Being Known by God (part 5)

PETER DEWITT  
AGATHOS CHURCH  
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### Full Text (for reading on your own)

#### *Being Known by God.*

In having a relationship with God, the foundation has to be Him. If we have a relationship with Him that is referenced on us, it will not be referenced on a firm bedrock - our relationship with God needs to be referenced on Him. Knowing God is the reference frame. But, in Jn. 10:27, Jesus said that if we are His follower we hear His voice and He knows us. It's a 2-way relationship with God. Jesus said "*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*" So who are the ones that are following Him? The sheep that hear His voice & that are known by Him! Being known by God is essential to your relationship with Him! God doesn't want a one-way relationship with you. He actually died so that He could know you. He died so that you could have a relationship with Him. He was "dying to know you!"

Jn. 10:27 is emphatic - it is a mathematical equation as to what it means to be a follower of Christ. But that is not the only place where Jesus speaks of "being known by God." In Matthew 7, Jesus says that in the last days He is going to need to tell some people who even did miracles in His Name to depart from Him because He didn't know them. Matthew 7 makes it clear that it is possible to know a lot about God but not have a relationship with Him. I am sure that there are professors of theology at many colleges around the world that know a lot about God, and may even know a lot about the Bible ... potentially they could even operate in the power of the Name of Jesus BUT not have a relationship with Him. You have to have a relationship with God. Jesus was saying that in the most extreme form there are people who could even operate in the power of His Name but do not have a relationship with Him as is evidenced by Him having to say "depart from Me, I never knew you." He wants us to be known by Him!

#### *Not Relational Auto-Pilot*

Being known by God is not a relational auto-pilot experience. Often we think "well God's omniscient, so He knows everything about me already... so what would I have to do in order to be known by Him?" That's a little bit like saying "well God's omnipotent; He's all-powerful and He wants to act on my behalf, so why would I need to pray ... wouldn't He just act on His own?" But we know about free will! The answer is that our loving Father, as omniscient as He is generally chooses to make Himself dependent upon our invitation to be known by Him. That's what happened with David. We see it in Ps. 139; it is all about God's omniscience and omnipresence and

David is saying “God you know me perfectly well.” But then at the end of the Psalm (verses 23 and 24) David says “search me, know me, try me, test me, see me, lead me.” Present tense. Invitation. So, in the present tense, David was inviting God to know him personally! It is not a relational auto-pilot experience to be known by God. It is an active invitation. We ask Him to know us. Of course God knows what’s going on in your life. He’s everywhere. He fills the heavens and the earth. You can’t hide anything from God. Where can I go that You are not already there?!? (Paraphrase, Ps. 139) BUT there will be no relational connection over that knowledge unless you invite Him into it. Being known by God is not an auto-pilot experience.

### *Having your own thing with God*

In Exodus 33:7-11, we read the story of the tent of meeting:

*Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the **tabernacle of meeting**. And it came to pass that **everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp**. So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and **each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle**. . . .the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.”*

So, Moses had a very busy job leading the entire people of Israel, but he would actually leave his day-to-day rigor and responsibilities of his life and role in order to seek the Lord. We see the same thing happen with David. David’s very own men, that he had trained up were going to mutiny and kill him because of the great loss that they had experienced, and in the face of those pressing circumstances, David stole-away and strengthened himself in the Lord. One of the keys to being known by God is we have to have time with Him. Moses arranged for special time at a special place with no interruptions. He left the people. He left day-to-day life in order to get away with God. We have to go on dates with God.

Allegorically, we can also glean something from the story of the Israelites at the tent of meeting. Moses was face-to-face with God, Joshua was at the tent of meeting, but the Israelites were back at their own tents. Now technically I do not know if the Israelites had access to the tent of meeting or not. It says in verse 7 that “everyone who sought the Lord when out to the tabernacle of meeting” so from that it makes me think that the Israelites did have access to the tent of meeting. But Exodus 19 details the access the Israelites had or didn’t have to Mt. Sinai to meet with God, so there is a lot of history there. Perhaps the Israelites were allowed in the tent of meeting, but perhaps they were not. BUT how much access do we, as new covenant believers, have to the tent of meeting? 100%!

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil was torn from top to bottom between the Holy of Holies and all of mankind. Jesus said “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.” That’s the veil. There is no veil between you and the presence of God at any point now if you are a believer because you have come through the body of Christ! That is why

James 4:8 makes such a strong statement “Draw near to God and He WILL draw near to you.” We have to be careful as new covenant believers that we do not get lulled into some sort of complacency through riding on the coat-tails of someone else’s intimacy with the Lord. It is easy to watch worship leaders go after God and somehow feel almost satisfied by the fact they were going after God ... but what about you? It is easy to hear about a brother or sister leading someone to the Lord and think “that is awesome that they got to share their relationship with God with someone else” ... but what about you? It is easy to read great books by Christian authors that are jam packed with revelation and think “where do they get this stuff!?!? This is incredible!” ... but what about you? The Lord wants to have a thing, a special thing, with you. He wants you to have special time, special place, no interruptions with you. He doesn’t want the new testament believers to stand back and worship at their tent where one believer is in front of the Lord face-to-face. The face-to-face relationship is available for each of us!

It used to be in the old covenant, that there was one day out of the entire year, for one person out of the entire nation of Israel, one nation out of the entire world, at one specific place in the entire world that someone could come into the presence of God. It was Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, in the Holy of Holies, for the High Priest only, once a year, for only the nation of Israel. But for you, it’s any time, any place. You ARE the tent of meeting. You ARE the temple of God. You carry the Holy Spirit with you. You can access that relationship, face-to-face, at any time. You can be in the pillar of cloud so-to-speak at ANY time! Any time. That’s what was bought on the cross. That’s what’s available to you today. Draw near to God. He’s made the permanent first step on your behalf. Your complete, all-access pass to the presence of God has been secured. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. But notice, you have the first step now! You say “God, do you want to danc...” and before the last syllable of “dance” is out of your mouth, He’s on the floor. “Lord do you want to talk?” He’s already listening. But you have to initiate. You have to initiate.

### *Letting God ask you Questions*

What do a blind date, a wonderful 50th anniversary dinner, and a well-conducted job interview have in common? Great questions. One of the best ways for God to get to know you is that He will ask you questions. Isn’t that wonderful! God asks you questions and that is evidenced by looking at the life of Jesus. Jesus said “if you’ve seen Me, you’ve seen the Father” and do you know that Jesus asked 135 questions in the gospels (and Acts)? Jesus, the perfect representation of the Father, asked people many questions.

God’s questions can cause us to reflect. For example: “Why did you doubt?” or “Do you realize what I have done for you?” or “Why do you harbor evil thoughts?” Those are questions that cause us to reflect. You may not have a good answer for those sorts of questions on the spot. God asks you “why did you doubt” and all you may know is that you are doubting, but not have a clue as to why.

But you reflect later. When God asks you questions like that, they will help process you into growth in the Kingdom.

God's questions can also challenge us: "Where is your faith?" or "Will you lay down your life for my sake?" After being caught from an 11-year old baseball team, my dad asked me after my failed try-out if I wanted to have a catch. He was challenging me to decide then whether I was going to work to make the team next year or give up now. Decided today! Which one will you choose? "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." (1 Kings 18) Get off the fence! The Lord will challenge you. "Where is your faith?" "Will you lay down your life for my sake?" He will challenge you. He will draw a line in the sand sometimes. That's helpful! It's like a good coach.

God will also test us with His questions. You may think "well that's a strong word." But keep in mind that David in Psalm 139 said "try me" and the Hebrew for that means "test me." David told God to test him! In Jn. 6:5-9 we see that Jesus tested Phillip by asking Him "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He (Jesus) said to test him. It was a trick question! Jesus knew what He was going to do! Jesus was trying to see if Philip has faith. And then Andrew comes into the conversation and shows a glimmer of faith "here is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish" but then misses it "but what are they among so many?" Both Philip and Andrew failed the test!

God tests us, but we have to remember that a test from God is a good thing! James chapter 1 makes that clear "*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*" Testing develops good things! Testing causes growth! But if you look later in that same chapter by the same author (James 1:13), you see "*Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.*" Notice! God never gives a temptation, but God does give tests. It's very clear. Tests are good, temptations are bad. Temptations are from the devil; they are meant to trip you up. "Woe to him from whom the temptations come." God has NOTHING good to say about temptations. They are meant to tear you down, trip you up, and sabotage your destiny. Whereas a test is meant to cause you to grow into victory!

A lot of students will say "man, the tests are what hold me back." No, the tests are what cause you to grow! But God will not give you tests over and over that you already can score 100% on because then you need to move on to the next class. If you can score 100% on every test in a college class, you ought to take the next higher class! Why stay in that class? God's tests will challenge you, but God will cause you to have victory in them! His tests are designed for your victory! Designed for your mastery. Designed for your growth. But you have to actually grow in order to conquer the tests that you have in Him! So, Jesus asked Philip this question in order to test Him! Why? Because He wanted Philip to try to answer and then see, and then have it drawn into crystal clarity "I didn't think there was any way to do this ... the only way I thought to do this was with money, but here

God just showed me something entirely different!” Philip got a test, failed the test, got a new teaching, and next time hopefully he can pass the test!

God’s questions also invite / incite our faith. Jesus asked “Do you want to be well?” on multiple occasions. He was drawing their faith out. “Do you believe I can do this?” These questions are kind of like saying “come on, are you going to have faith or are you going to not have faith? Decide. Do you want to be well?” The Lord might ask you that question the next time you are moping or pouting. “Do you want to have a good night?” “Umm, yes, I guess so.” “No, do you want this to be a blessed evening with your family?” “Yes ...” “No, no, no, REALLY, do you want it to be blessed?” “YES I want it to be blessed!!!” “OK, cool - I’m going to bless it!” Sometimes we think we are having faith, we think we want it fixed, but we don’t want it fixed! We have to get ready to want it fixed!

### *The Power of Questions*

When God asks you questions, He invites you to discover the answers with Him. The process of discovering answers with God actually causes you to own the answers once you’ve received them. Every good teacher asks transformative questions. When you have to go through the process of having to find the answer, it causes you to be ready to own the answer. Kris Vallotton says that in general in the Kingdom of God that the “process prepares you for the palace.” The wilderness prepares you for the promised land. Seeking prepares you for finding.

Remember that the Holy Spirit is our counselor. And what do great counselors do? They ask you good questions! If God asks you a question, you want to hear the answer! But a lot of times you don’t have a good answer yet. Even so, don’t run away from the test; run to the teacher!

God’s questions invite us to be a student, but then our questions invite Him to be a teacher. Often, the initial invitation is that God will ask you a question, but then you in turn ask Him questions and He really takes on the role of teacher in your life.

### *Asking God Questions*

Consider again a well-conducted interview. The first part of the interview is characterized by asking the interviewee questions. Perhaps little Billy or Sally just finished college and they want a job and they are there, ready to be interviewed, kind of nervous but ready to answer the questions! And at the end of the interview, the interviewer will usually say “do you have any questions for us?” Why do interviewers do that? Two reasons I can think of. One, it is normal, good relational practice to have 2-way conversation. The person being interviewed and the interviewer(s) would likely be disconnected relationally at the end of an interview if the questions were completely one-sided in the interview. Because God has written 2-way relationship on our hearts, you would feel odd at the end of an interview if you didn’t get to ask a question or two as well. There should be a back and forth exchange. It’s that way with God. He will ask us questions but He wants us to ask Him questions too!

So, allowing an interviewee to ask you questions establishes more of a relational approach to the interview, but that's not the only reason an interviewer will allow the tables to be turned. But that's not the only reason ... the other reason most interviewers allow the person being interviewed to ask their own questions is because you want to see what they ask! In some ways, the questions they ask tell you more about them than the previous answers they gave you. Their questions show you the frame of reference for their thinking. Little Sally and Billy are just trying to get a job (no problem with that) so their end of interview questions are going to be "when will you have a decision." There are other interviewees (for instance in the realm of teaching) who ask "I've been really interested in curriculum design so I am wondering how your school facilitates trans-disciplinary project-based learning without interrupting the rigor of the individual classes?" This is someone who has a job! Who is already very successful in their job! Someone who is looking for career fulfillment. They have a vision and a mission for their passion in education. They are looking for the place where there is a good fit - the right team for them to collaborate with and launch their educational visions into reality. That's what those questions mean. A different frame of reference than Billy and Sally!

The questions that interviewees ask tell the interviewers a lot about them! So, one way that God gets to know you (you know, "being known by God") is the questions you ask Him! Have you ever thought about that? The questions that we ask God tell Him a lot about us! Listen to some of the questions that people ask Jesus. Remember "you've seen Me, you've seen the Father." People were asking Jesus questions, so that means that they were asking God questions:

*"Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"* (Mt. 19:16) Great question! Or consider Mark 9:11 *"Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"* Do you notice that is a question about scriptural understanding? *"Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"* They are asking to understand scripture. When you read the Word, ask God questions about what you are reading! If you find yourself thinking as you read the gospels "don't know what that meant ..." take that thought, make an adjustment and direct it to the Lord "Lord, what does that mean? I don't understand that." Ask God questions about His Word!

Some scriptures are really plainly obvious. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* Jn. 3:16 is written so that if you do not have a Ph.D in the Holy Spirit, if you don't know God, if you are a son or a daughter of the devil, that scripture ought to still make sense to you. You do not need much of a special revelation to understand what that scripture is talking about. I know that people's eyes can be blinded to what is obviously there, but I am saying that there are other scriptures that are kind of like the "secret, hidden things" of God. And you need to ask God questions about those scriptures in order to lay hold of understanding them - in order to get revelation from them! There are some parables still that I read and I think "man, I have no idea what that part of that parable is about." Ask Him!

Sometimes He will give you revelation about a scripture on the spot. Sometimes, for me, it will be like 3 years before I "get it" about that scripture. I've asked Him about that scripture 10 times.

Every time I come to that scripture “I don’t know what that means...” “Lord, I would love to understand what that’s about!” I ask Him about it. And I may not get anything that day. But 3 years later, apparently some other scriptures have come into line in my thinking, I read that scripture again and all of a sudden it is like “bang! Got it!” That’s the process of revelation, but you’ve got to ask questions! *Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?*

Or look at this question from Mark 9:28 “*Why couldn't we drive it (namely, a demon) out?*” Or look at Mark 11:21 “*How did the fig tree wither so quickly?*” These questions are about developing understanding. God wants the experiences that you have day-to-day to provide opportunities to develop understanding of Kingdom principles ... but in order to develop that understanding, you need to ask “why.” “*Why couldn't we drive it (namely, a demon) out?*” or “*How did the fig tree wither so quickly?*” The disciples had seen demons driven out, but here they did not see this demon driven out. So what did they say? “Why?” “Why didn’t it work this time?”

When things at your job don’t work right like they normally do, and you are driving home thinking about it over and over, ask God “why did that meeting not go well?” You might be surprised by His answer. It may be that you did not prepare it thoroughly enough. It could be that Sally (I’m picking on Sally today) had a bad attitude and sabotaged the meeting before it started. Once the Lord revealed it to you, you were able to clean that up the next day and sure enough - that was the issue. But we need understanding! When we don’t know why something happened, the Holy Spirit wants to teach you “why.” But you have to ask - or else you will just repeat the same experience over and over.

Look at Proverbs 2:1-7. This section of scripture is SO POWERFUL about seeking understanding! “*My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you **cry out** for discernment, and **lift up your voice** for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright ...*” When you are driving home from work after a frustrating meeting, or walking away from a person you were sharing the Lord with who was with you every step of the way, and really touched by your words, and yet they didn’t want to say yes to Christ . . . Ask the Lord “why!” Cry out for discernment!

We need to cry out for wisdom! God wants the experiences that you have on a daily basis to turn into Kingdom principles which you can teach to someone else. One day I was walking to our van and heard “you know, vocabulary is just commonly defined thought.” The power of vocabulary is that once you can call a Northern Cardinal a “Northern Cardinal” you no longer need to use a description like “the red bird about this big that chirps in the trees in the morning and kind of sounds like this and the female is a different color than the male - more tan-toned.” Having the term “cardinal” saves a lot of time! It is the power of commonly defined thought. When you have experiences, you want to turn the experiences with God, through His Word, through His Holy

Spirit, into understanding and now you have WORDS for it! That's why you don't know why that meeting didn't go well. That's why you don't know why your kids are acting up. That's why you don't know why that demon didn't get driven out. That's why you don't know why the fig tree withered so quickly. It's because you don't know! If you knew you would have words for it! That's why you may not be able to teach the gospel effectively. Because you don't know it. If you don't have words for it, it is because you don't know it.

A lot of times, I think I know something, but it turns out that I don't really know that something very well at all! If anyone has ever taught before they know what I am talking about. You THINK you can teach it! But then you step in front of people and realize "oh my gosh, I don't know this stuff at all!" You think you know it, but you don't know it because you've never tried to say it. You've never tried to put it to words. "I've got it all 'in here'." No you don't! Because you don't have it in words.

When you have it in words you have it in understanding and you can give it to someone. And that benefits you because next time a meeting starts to go south like that, you will be able to prevent it because you can pivot because you can see it coming because you developed an understanding with God about the spirit that was operating in that previous meeting through Sally. This time you can fix it on the fly with joy, or with thankfulness, or with a compliment ... whatever the Lord taught you about it last time.

Understanding Kingdom principles not only helps you, but now you can instruct someone else and you become an epicenter of understanding and people flock to you asking "what's going on with this?" "Why is this happening like that?" "What should I do with this?" And then you explain to them and they exclaim "oh my gosh, that is so right!" And you're thinking "well, that's just what I learned last time from the Holy Spirit when I was driving home in the car and I didn't know what had happened." When you seek the Lord in your day-to-day life He develops understanding and you realize why that demon didn't get driven out this time. And you realize what made that one situation different than the other situation - because you have been crying out for understanding. You've been searching for it. You're lifting up your voice for it! You're seeking and seeking it and seeking it and He's giving it to you! And you literally become a pillar of understanding that people flock to in order to hear what you've heard from the Lord. "I've never heard the Gospel like that!" "Where do you get this stuff?" "That's so right!" "That's so good!" It's from God! And it comes from asking Him questions! When you ask Him questions, it invites Him to be a teacher in your life. And what a blessing it is to you and others when you are His student!



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## Text Summary (for reading as a group)

Our relationship with God needs to be referenced on Him, but it's a 2-way relationship with God. Jesus said *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."* Being known by God is essential to your relationship with Him! God doesn't want a one-way relationship with you. He wants us to be known by Him! Being known by God is not a relational auto-pilot experience. It is an active invitation in which we invite Him to know us.

Moses had a very busy job leading the entire people of Israel, but he would actually leave his day-to-day rigor and responsibilities of his life and role in order to seek the Lord. We see the same thing happen with David. David's very own men, that he had trained up were going to mutiny and kill him because of the great loss that they had experienced, and in the face of those pressing circumstances, David stole-away and strengthened himself in the Lord. One of the keys to being known by God is we have to have time with Him.

When Jesus died on the cross the veil was torn from top to bottom between the Holy of Holies and all of mankind. Jesus said "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me." That's the veil. There is no veil between you and the presence of God at any point now because you have come through the body of Christ! That is why James 4:8 makes such a strong promise "Draw near to God and He WILL draw near to you." We do not want to get lulled into riding on the coat-tails of someone else's intimacy with the Lord. It is easy to watch worship leaders go after God and somehow feel almost satisfied by the fact they were going after God ... but what about you? The Lord wants to have a thing, a special thing, with you. He doesn't want the new testament believers to stand back from His presence while one believer is in front of the Lord face-to-face. The face-to-face relationship is available for each of us! You ARE the tent of meeting. You ARE the temple of God. You carry the Holy Spirit with you. You can access that relationship, face-to-face, at any time. That's what was bought on the cross. Draw near to God. He's ready. But you have to initiate.

One of the best ways for God to get to know you is that He will ask you questions. Jesus, the perfect representation of the Father, asked 135 questions in the gospels! God's questions can cause us to reflect and that reflection will help process you into growth in the Kingdom. God's questions can also challenge us: "Where is your faith? The Lord will challenge you to get off the fence! God will also test us with His questions. David told God to test him in Ps. 139! In Jn. 6 we see that Jesus tested Phillip by asking Him "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" We have to remember that a test from God is a good thing! James chapter 1 makes that clear *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."* Testing develops good things! Testing causes growth! But if you look later in that same chapter by the same author (James 1:13), you see *"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."* Notice! God never gives a temptation, but God does give tests. It's very clear. Tests are good, temptations are bad. Tests are what cause you to

grow! God's questions also invite / incite our faith. Jesus asked "Do you want to be well?" on multiple occasions. Sometimes we think we are having faith, we think we want it fixed, but we don't want it fixed! We have to get ready to want it fixed and God's questions can help draw out our faith.

When God asks you questions, He invites you to discover the answers with Him. The process of discovering answers with God actually causes you to own the answers once you've received them. Every good teacher asks transformative questions. When you have to go through the process of having to find the answer, it causes you to be ready to own the answer. Kris Vallotton says that in general in the Kingdom of God that the "process prepares you for the palace." The wilderness prepares you for the promised land. Seeking prepares you for finding. God's questions invite us to be a student, but then our questions invite Him to be a teacher. Often, the initial invitation is that God will ask you a question, but then you in turn ask Him questions and He really takes on the role of teacher in your life.

God will ask us questions but He wants us to ask Him questions too! One way that God gets to know you is by the questions you ask Him! Have you ever thought about that? The questions that we ask God tell Him a lot about us! Listen to some of the questions that people ask Jesus. Remember people were asking Jesus questions, so that means that they were asking God questions:

*"Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"* (Mt. 19:16) Great question! Or consider Mark 9:11 *"Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"* Do you notice that is a question about scriptural understanding? They are asking to understand scripture. When you read the Word, ask God questions about what you are reading! Ask God questions about His Word! Some scriptures are really plainly obvious, but there are other scriptures that are kind of like the "secret, hidden things" of God. And you need to ask God questions about those scriptures in order to get revelation from them! Ask Him about His Word! Sometimes He will give you revelation about a scripture on the spot. Sometimes, it will take years before we "get it" about that scripture and all of a sudden it is like "bang! Got it!" That's the process of revelation, but you've got to ask questions!

Look at the question from Mark 9:28 *"Why couldn't we drive it (namely, a demon) out?"* and also at Mark 11:21 *"How did the fig tree wither so quickly?"* These questions are about developing understanding. God wants the experiences that you have day-to-day to provide opportunities to develop understanding of Kingdom principles ... but in order to develop that understanding, you need to ask "why." *"Why couldn't we drive it (namely, a demon) out?"* or *"How did the fig tree wither so quickly?"* The disciples had seen demons driven out, but here they did not see this demon driven out. So what did they say? "Why couldn't we..."

When things at your job don't work right like they normally do, and you are driving home thinking about it over and over, ask God "why did that meeting not go well?" You might be surprised by His answer. We need understanding! When we don't know why something happened, the Holy Spirit wants to teach you "why." But you have to ask - or else you will just repeat the same experience over and over.

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When you seek the Lord in your day-to-day life He develops understanding and you realize why that demon didn’t get driven out this time - because you have been crying out for understanding. You’ve been searching for it. You’re lifting up your voice for it! You’re seeking and seeking and seeking it and He’s giving it to you! And you literally become a pillar of understanding that people flock to in order to hear what you’ve heard from the Lord. “I’ve never heard the Gospel like that!” “Where do you get this stuff?” “That’s so right!” “That’s so good!” It’s from God! And it comes from asking Him questions! When you ask Him questions, it invites Him to be a teacher in your life. And what a blessing it is to you and others when you are His student!

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### Points to Ponder . . .

- How does the reality of the torn veil impact your relationship with God?
- In what ways do the questions that God asks draw us into asking Him questions of our own?
- How does asking God questions about His Word change our Bible reading time - and potentially the rest of our day?
- What does crying out for understanding look like?
- How does it benefit you and others to be His student?