TITLE: It’s Who You Know!

TEXT: Jn. 16:23, 14:6-7, 10:1,9-10; Ephe. 1:13-14;

Ro. 8:15-17; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Ephe. 1:18-19

INTRODUCTION: When contact lenses were still a novelty, a lady by the name of Mildred was pulled over by the police. Checking her driver’s license, the policeman noted, "It says you're required to wear glasses."

 "I have contacts," Mildred explained.

 "I don't care who you know," the officer growled. "You have to wear your glasses."

 Have you ever heard the old saying; it’s not what you know but who you know that counts?

 This may not be true all of the time but it is certainly true enough of the time that we can take notice of it.

So often in this life it is not as much what you know as it is who you know that will make the real difference.

Example: Dahl’s…. I started working for Dahl’s Foods in Des Moines when I was 16 years old. The man that hired me was a young assistant manager by the name of Kenny Stroud. Mr. Stroud was probably about 12 years my senior at the time.

 Ken Stroud was one of the most astute businessmen in grocery retail that I have ever known. He was the guy that I watched and tried to emulate more than any other manager I had ever worked with. I was a pretty ambitious young man and Ken took notice of me. Over the years Mr. Stroud advanced within the company and ended up being the President and CEO of Dahl’s.

 It was under his reign that I really started to advance within the company. Now, I was good at what I did and well qualified for the positions that I was advanced to, but there were times when there were other men probably just as qualified, some who had been with the company longer then I had been, that were passed over when I received the promotion…

 Know I don’t know for sure but I feel that there were times in my grocery career that what it came down to in the final analysis in receiving a promotion, was not just what I knew but who I knew that made the difference….

 Some will say that isn’t right or that doesn’t sound fair…. The ones who say that are usually the ones that don’t know anybody of influence that may be able to help them.

 The fact is this is often the way that it works within the world that we live. It is not always just what we know that counts, but often it comes down to who we know.

 And this is a Scriptural concept by the way!

This is not only true in the world in which we live, but it is also true in the spiritual realm as well.

 It is not as much what you know as it is who you know…

 And if we know Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior then Scripture tells us that we are connected! In and through Christ we have a connection of cosmic proportions!

 In and through Christ we are connected to God.

 Our connection, the “who we know” is the God of all creation! The Lord of all Lords and the King of all kings!

 What I want to focus upon this morning is the benefits of this heavenly connection. The benefit of “who we know” when the one that we know is Christ Jesus.

Jesus says this in:

**John 16:23 (NIV)** **23In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.**

What a promise! Through a personal relationship with the Son we have direct access to the Father.

Jesus said: **I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.**

 During the Civil war, a young soldier walking over a battle field came across a dear friend who was shot. He was badly wounded and his life was draining away rapidly.

 The solider straightened out the shattered limb, washed the blood away from his fallen comrade’s face, and made him as comfortable as possible under the difficult circumstances.

He then said he would stay with his friend as long as life was still there. Then he asked if there was anything more he might do.

 Yes, replied the dying soldier, if you have a piece of paper, I will dictate a note to my father, and I think I can still sign it. My father is a prominent judge in the North, and if you take him this message he will help you.

 The note read, “Dear Father, I am dying on the battlefield; one of my best friends is helping me and has done his best for me. If he ever comes to you, be kind to him for your son Charlie’s sake.” Then with rapidly stiffing fingers, he signed his name and then died.

 After the war, the young soldier in ragged uniform sought out the prominent judge. The servants of the judge refused to admit him because he looked like so many of the tramps coming by for handouts.

 He made a ruckus and insisted that he see the judge. Finally, hearing the commotion, the judge came out and read the note. He, at first, was convinced it was but another beggar’s attempt to get a handout. But as he studied the signature, and even in its scribbled state he recognized it as his own sons.

 He then embraced the soldier, led him into his home, and said with tears in his eyes, “you can have anything that my money can buy, and everything that my influence can secure!”

 What brought about the sudden change in the judges attitude? It was the signature of his son affixed to the bottom of that note.

 It was the Father-Son relationship that made all of the difference.

Because of the Son you and I can have access to the Father!

 Jesus signed the note of introduction to the Father at Calgary’s cross and He signed it with His own blood.

 When it comes to salvation and receiving the promise of forgiveness of our sins and a restored relationship with God and eternal life, it is not what we know but who we know that counts.

 You can possess great knowledge, know all about God. You can memorize Scripture, be able to quote chapter and verse of a thousand Bible verses…You can have great Scriptural knowledge and still miss out on all the promises of God’s Word and end up eternally separated from Him in hell. Because when it comes to God and things of eternal significance and consequence it is not what we know but who we know that counts.

The one we must know to have access to all the promises of the Father is Jesus, the Son.

 **John 14:6 - 7 (NIV)**

**6Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.****7If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well.**

Did you catch the truth contained in this passage?

Jesus said: **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

We live in a pluralistic world today where many think that there are many ways to God.

 The Jews think Moses and the prophets can give them access to God, the Moslems believe Muhammad can give them access to God, Buddhist believe that Buddha can give them access to God, the people of the far east think that the teaching of the world’s great philosophers such as Confucius can give them access to God….

 Moses could meditate on the law. Muhammad could brandish a sword. Buddha could give personal counsel. Confucius could offer wise sayings.

 But none of these men was qualified to offer atonement for the sins of the world.

There is only one person in all of history that was pure enough to do that and that is Jesus Christ.

 So Jesus said: **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

 What he was saying is that Moses and the prophets can’t save you! Muhammad can’t save you! Buddha can’t save you! Confucius and all the worlds’ great philosophers can’t save you! Secular Humanism, making a god out of self can’t save you!

There is only one way to be saved and that is by, in and through Jesus Christ!

 Jesus said:

**“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

**John 10:1, 9 - 10 (NIV)** **1“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber**

**9I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.**

Access to the Father is only found through the Son!

 It is not what we know but who we know that gives us this access to God the Father. And once we have gained that access through the Son then we have at our disposal all that the Father has.

 The apostle Paul says this in:

**Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV) 13And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.**

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Here is a wonderful truth of Scripture for all those who know Christ Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their life…

 We have a guaranteed inheritance from God!

 Scripture says that we are co-heirs with Jesus Christ..

 **Romans 8:15 - 17 (NIV) 15For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, *“Abba,*****£** **Father.” 16The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ….**

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Do you know what a co-heir is?

***The Greek word is: soong-klay-ron-om'-os***

This is a composite of two Greek words:

**Soon= denotes union or together with**

***klay-ron-om'-os=*sense of *partitioning*, *getting* by apportionment); a *sharer* *by* *lot*, that is, an *inheritor***

***soong-klay-ron-om'-os* is a *co-heir*, that is a *participant* *in* *common:*—fellow (joint) -heir, heir together with!**

 A co-heir with Christ means that we have an inheritance in partnership with Christ. We have a co-equal share in the family fortune. We stand to inherit all that the Father has reserved for the Son.

 Just what does this mean to us?

When we come to know Jesus then every promise of the Bible becomes ours to claim…

Promises such as:

 **That He who began a good work within us will be faithful to complete it!**

**That nothing in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God!**

**I can do all things through Him who gives me strength!**

**That I am more than a conqueror but I am a victor in Christ Jesus!**

 **That just as Jesus, the first fruit, has been raised victoriously over sin and the grave that one day we will also!**

 **That just as Jesus ascended to be united with the Father one day we will too!**

Every promise that the Father has for the Son we become a co-heir to.

And God has given us a deposit that guarantees all this promise to us in the here and now..

 **Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,14who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession…..**

The Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance…

The Holy Spirit of God that indwells every believer when they accept Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their life becomes a deposit that guarantees our inheritance.

The Greek word for “deposit guarantee” used here is*:*

***ar-hrab-ohn'* a *pledge*, that is, part of the purchase money or property given in advance as *security* for the rest.**

One of the purposes for the Holy Spirit in our lives is to give us the assurance that the promises of God are for us to claim now in this life and the assurance of a future inheritance as a co-heir with Jesus Christ in Gods eternal Kingdom…

EXAMPLE: A few years ago at a men’s retreat in Geneva Wisconsin with over 400 men in attendance, one of the guys in our group stopped to talk with a young black man who was hanging around outside of the meeting hall after the evening service one night.

This young man had come to retreat with a downtown Chicago Church and was a one-time gang member who had become saved.

 In trying to strike up a conversation with him one of our guys asked how he was doing… I will never forget his response… he said: I great! I am fantastic! I’m royalty! Cause I am a prince and my Daddy’s a King!

 This young black man from the ghettos of Chicago realized a truth that I think many of us never really come to fully grasp. He had the full assurance of being a co-heir with Jesus Christ…

 He understood what it really meant to be a co heir with Christ. He understood that no matter what he may be or how he may be viewed from the eyes of this world that he was really royalty and royalty of the highest degree!

 His daddy, his heavenly Father, was not just a king but the King of all Kings and the lord of all Lords and he had the Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing his place as a part of that royal family…

He knew that it isn’t what you know but who you know that really counts--Especially if the one that you know is Jesus.

 No matter who you are, no matter what you have done, no matter how many times you may have failed in this life, if you have come to know Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life then you are royalty! You are a co-heir with the Son of God destined to inherit all that the Father has!

**1 Peter 2:9 - 10 (NIV)**

**9But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

 **But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God**

The Apostle Paul has this prayer that he prays over the Church at Ephesus.

**Ephesians 1:18 - 19 (NIV) 18I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19and his incomparably great power for us who believe.**

Church, it is not what we know, but who we know that really counts. Especially if the one we know is Jesus.

 Do you know Jesus? Not just know of Him or about Him, but do you know Him in a personal and intimate way?

 Do you know Him as the Lord and savior of your life?

 Do you have this infinite and eternal connection with God that can only be found in Jesus the Son?

In closing this morning, I want to pray this prayer of Paul over all of us….

**Lord,** **I pray also that the eyes of our heart may be enlightened in order that we may know and fully realize the hope to which You have called us, That we may know, we may fully understand and grasp in the depths of our hearts, the riches of the glorious inheritance that You have for us in Christ, Help us to understand in the depths of our hearts the incomparable great power that You have given to all who have come to believe in Jesus.**

 **May we come to the full realization that we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Jesus Christ and have the inheritance of royalty, the inheritance of a child of privilege that awaits us….**

 **May we live our lives as royal sons and daughters of the King of all Kings and Lord or all Lords!**

 **May we always rejoice not so much in what we know but in who we know! May our rejoicing always be in Jesus…..**

 **To the praise of His Glory---Amen**

**(Give simple Invitation)**