**HEART TO HEART**/A word of hope and encouragement by Mennie Morrison

**JUNE 2023**

**IT’S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP (PART 1)**

I greet you in the name that’s above every name, the Name of Jesus. I trust that you are doing well. This month of June, we are starting a new devotional teaching entitled “**It’s All About Relationship**”. In this teaching, I am not necessarily referring to a natural relationship, but a spiritual one; with our Creator God.

From the very beginning of creation, God has desired relationship with His people (mankind). After all that He created during the first five days of creation according to the Book of Genesis, He decided to create someone to have relationship with. Someone in His image and likeness and that was you and I (man/woman)

**Genesis 1:26-31**.

To get us started, let’s define the word **Relationship** from the dictionary.com website: one of the definitions of this word relationships is: a connection, association, or involvement. So, from this definition, we can see that God has always desired connection, association and involvement with His people.

God is a relational God, and He is so big on **relationship** that after He created man, He didn’t want Him to be alone, without **relationship**, so He created woman because He knew the importance of **relationship**, connection, association and involvement with each other. Genesis 2:18 (AMP) *Now the Lord God said, “It is not good (beneficial) for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper [one who balances him—a counterpart who is] suitable and complementary for him.”*

Then, the Fall of Man (His original **relationship** with God) happen (**Genesis 3**). That original wonderful relationship with the God of the universe was broken because of disobedience. But God, He in His great love and mercy, had to somehow get man back into right standing (**relationship)** with Him; “**It’s All About Relationship**”. We see this plan taking place throughout the Old Covenant (God setting His plan in motion) for redemption, restoration of **relationship** with His children.

Even after the Fall of Man and the loss of the original **relationship** (connection, association, and involvement), God still made a way to have **relationship** with His children. However, it was inferior to His original intent. Man didn’t really have direct **relationship** with God but had to go through other men/priest on their behalf and had to offer up animal sacrifices for sin and that wasn’t required before that terrible and dreadful Fall. However, there was still a (disconnect, a bridge, a gap) that needed to be restored. Jesus was the answer to the sin and separation problem that man had with God.

Because blood animal sacrifices had to be made on behalf of the sin of the people in the Old Covenant, God used a blood sacrifice once again in the New Covenant to atone for us, and that sacrifice was Jesus. He was born to die; He was the ultimate and supreme sacrifice

God’s ultimate answer to the **relationship** problem, was in the person of His son, Jesus. This can be seen throughout the Old Covenant in many books. However, one of the clearest prophecies is found in the book of **Isaiah, chapter 53**.

Our great God is a triune being; one God with (3) distinct personalities and of course the Old Covenant was about **relationship** with our Loving Heavenly Father, the first of this triune being. As our great God continued to fulfill His plan of restoring that **relationship** with Him, the second person of the Godhead (Jesus) came into the picture, which we will see in more detail as we move to the New Covenant.

**It’s All About Relationship** and our Good, Good Father was on a rescue mission to get that **relationship** back that was lost, and He accomplished this mission. However, as important as it is to have a **relationship** with God, He is so loving and kind and doesn’t force Himself on us, we have to freely choose Him.

Now, we get to the New Covenant (a New and better Covenant). This is where God’s plan of redemption (restoration of our **relationship**) would take place through the person of Jesus. Jesus was prophesied all throughout the Old Covenant and one of the most powerful prophecies can be found in **Isaiah 7:14,** and we see the fulfillment of that miraculous birth in **Matthew 1:23 (NET)** *“Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will name him[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1%3A23&version=NET#fen-NET-23168a)*] Emmanuel,”[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1%3A23&version=NET#fen-NET-23168b)*] which means[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1%3A23&version=NET#fen-NET-23168c)*] “God with us.”*

**It’s all about relationship**. The reason Jesus came was to save us from sin, the thing that separated us in the Garden. Let’s see this in **Matthew 1:21 (AMP)** *She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation), for He will****save******His******people******from******their******sins****.*

Let’s look at one more scripture as it relates to **relationship** with Jesus, our savior, before we close part 1 of our teaching. **Jesus** was a relational Savior even in his childhood, He was about His Father’s business of restoring **relationship**. Even though He was born in human flesh, humanity, as He grew in stature, He knew His calling was all about restoring **relationship** between God and man.

From the New Covenant, the book of Luke is the only one that really mentioned anything about Jesus’s childhood, let’s look at a few of those instances as we are looking at **It’s All About Relationship**. God’s **relationship** with us (man) and our relationship with Him. In **Luke 2:21-32,** we see Jesus as a child being brought to the temple to be circumcised and presented to the Lord. There was a righteous and devout man by the name of Simeon who had received divine revelation that he would meet the Messiah, the Savior, before he died. On this particular day that Jesus’s parents brought him to the temple, Simeon, was also led to go there as well.

When the parents of Jesus brought him in the temple, Simeon knew that this Word of the Lord had come to past and this is what he said in **Luke 2:28-32(NCV)** ***28****Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God:* ***29****“Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant,    die in peace as you said.* ***30****With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,* ***31****which you prepared before all people.* ***32****It is a light for the non-Jewish people to see and an honor for your people, the Israelites.”*

In this same **2nd chapter of Luke**, let’s see how the child Jesus at around 12 years of age was fulfilling his Father’s (God) assignment of **Relationship.** For us to get a good picture of this story of Jesus’s time in the temple, let’s look at **Luke 2:41-52(ESV)**

 ***41****Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.****42****And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.****43****And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,****44****but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances,****45****and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.****46****After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.****47****And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.****48****And when his parents[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2%3A41-52&version=ESV#fen-ESV-25013a)*] saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.”****49****And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2%3A41-52&version=ESV#fen-ESV-25014b)*]****50****And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.****51****And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.****52****And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2%3A41-52&version=ESV#fen-ESV-25017c)*] and in favor with God and man.*

Again, even as a child I believe that Jesus was so connected with Father God in **relationship** (Emmanuel, God with Us) that He stayed the course to fulfill not only His relationship with His Father but to develop one with His Disciples (the early church) and mankind. Jesus finished the work of the Father to develop this relationship (See: **Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Philippians 2:6-8, 1 Timothy 2:5, 1 John 2:2, Hebrews 9:11-14, 10:12-14**).

Thank God, for that relationship that Jesus purchased for us in this new and better covenant by becoming the supreme sacrifice. In our teaching next month, we will look at our **relationship** with the third person of the Godhead, (the precious Holy Spirit).

Before I close, if you don’t have this wonderful *relationship* with God the Father through the person of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, today is your day. Tomorrow is not promised to us, and today is the only day that we have. There is a Prayer of Salvation at the bottom of this page. Read it and mean it from the bottom of your heart, and you will be born again, and you will understand that it is **All About Relationship**.

We would also like to send you a free **New Convert Booklet** with some practical information on your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your personal savior. Just find the **Contact Page** and let us know that you received Jesus as Savior, leave us your name and complete mailing address, and we will be happy to send you this free booklet. WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD! Please visit our site next month for part 2 of this teaching.