

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

The Biography of God

Overview: A biography is defined as a written account of a person's life. Much can be learned as we study the lives of others – especially if we go deeper by asking some focused questions. Using some of these same questions while reading the Bible – God's biography – can lead us into some great insights.

Questions to Use to Get to Know a Person:

- What is interesting or different about the way the person responded to a situation?
- Why do I think the person responded that way?
- How does this inform me about the person?
- What character quality do I see in a particular part of their story and what does this tell me about the person?
- What motivates the person?
- What frustrates the person?
- What is the essence of the person?
- What do I want to learn to emulate from this person?
- What do I want to guard against?

Use these some of these questions to discuss the person of God — His attributes, His nature, His character, His heart, His motivations, what captivates Him and what doesn't interest Him. Use the Matthew Scripture portions to start your dialog, but refer to others as well.

Introduction

For the past few years, I have been reading biographies with my children and discussing them to see what we can learn from people's lives. We have read biographies about Abraham Lincoln, John D. Rockefeller, Phil Knight, Margaret Thatcher, Mother Theresa and many others. Recently, it occurred to me that the Bible is the biography, or maybe more correctly autobiography (2 Timothy 3:16), of God. During my daily time in the scriptures, I decided to read the gospel of Matthew with the lens of reading a biography.

When I am reading a biography I am asking myself various depths of questions that help me get to know the person — first at a surface level and then at a more intimate level. The best biographers help uncover the true deep character of the person they are writing about. (*see questions above*)

Matthew 19:13-30

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away.

And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Matthew 25:14-30

"For the kingdom of heaven will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'