

Richmond Hill Baptist Church
October 2, 2011, **not a fan #3: Choosing Intimacy**

Prelude & Prayer Time

Call to Worship: O Worship the King

Welcome: Welcome to Richmond Hill. It is good to see you. We are super excited about the “not a fan” series and we are glad to have you with us. If you are a guest please fill out a Connect Card. Let’s greet one another.

Sing: *Everlasting God, Majesty, I Stand Amazed*

Children’s Corner:

Announcements:

1. Ladies Retreat: Oct 21-22, Canmore, & Charis Packets at table
2. Men’s Retreat: Oct 14-15, Rafter Six, Dan Gaynor
3. Long Range Plan Approved, OST + Work Teams, Vision Statement

Offering & Offertory:

Sermon: **not a fan #3: Choosing Intimacy**

DVD: Week Three Sermonette

Can I get a volunteer? I am not giving out \$20.00 bills. Remember that was one time offer. Wash their feet.

In **Luke 7**, we read about two people who encounter Jesus on very different paths. Jesus is invited to **Simon the Pharisees** home. Simon does not greet Jesus in the proper way with a customary kiss nor does he wash his feet. Generally in the ancient world a distinguished guest would have had their feet washed by their host or a servant of their host and then you would anoint their head with olive oil. None of this happened for Jesus.

So Jesus is eating in the home of this very ungracious host and in the middle of the meal an uninvited guest shows up. She is described as a **sinful woman**. With tears she walks up to Jesus who is reclining at the table. Her tears fall on the dirty unclean feet of Jesus and she begins to wipe the dirt with hair. She kisses his feet and anoints them with perfume.

I am not going to kiss your feet! I will give you some Bath & Body works lotion.

Let’s pause the story for now and keep it in mind as talk for a moment about intimacy.

I want to introduce to you a Hebrew word. It is **יָדָע** (*yā·dā`*). Not Yoda! Write it out!

Yada is perhaps the best Biblical word for the word intimacy. It literally means to “know.” This word is first used in the context of Genesis 4:1. In the Hebrew it would read Adam yada Eve. In the KJV we read Adam knew Eve. In the NIV it reads Adam laid with Eve.

You get the picture. Yada is the word intimacy. But don’t giggle too much. This is not just a yada yada moment if you know what I am talking about. This is an intimate moment where Adam and Eve connected at every level: to know and to be known.

There are other Hebrew words that could have been referring to the procreation or the physical act but they are not used. The word Yada, to know or to be known, is used. This word is used 654 times throughout Scripture.

Intimacy takes places at lots of different levels.

We have all been to restaurants and watched the folks around us.

Have you ever noticed those **young newly wed like couples** that can are so close they are nearly inseparable and they are talking like crazy and their food gets cold and they don’t even care.

On the opposite end of the spectrum; have you ever noticed those **older couples that have been married for years?** They sit in silence enjoying their food and the company. It is almost like they are able to connect at a different level. It’s like they know each other so well that they can read each others thoughts and communicate without speaking.

Did you know that even know when you are watching them. They say with out talking: How rude do you see those people staring at us? Then comes the nod; yes I see them. They are young someday they will get it!

Intimacy! Did you know that God knows you intimately?

1. God knows you intimately.

Consider the words of David in **Psalm 139:1-4:**

*O LORD, you have searched me and you **know me**.² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.³ You discern my going out and my lying down; **you are familiar with all my ways**.⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you **know it completely**, O LORD.*

If you keep reading Psalm 139 we are reminded that God designed you and He made you. You are wonderfully made.

Because God created you; You can be certain that He knows you.

He knows you on a very deep level even when you are shallow with Him.

He knows when you hurt even when don't tell anyone else.

He knows your hidden thoughts; those you hide and keep secret for others.

He knows your motives even when they look good to others but really they aren't.

He knows your heart.

He knows your fears.

He knows your needs.

He knows you better than anyone else.

He knows you and second he wants you to know Him.

2. God wants you to know Him.

The creator of the universe wants you to get to know Him. This is cool! One of the greatest compliments you can ever receive is to be called a friend of God – just ask Abraham.

Some of the most popular people in the world have a fan base and they don't really care much about their fans and there are certain things they want their fan base to know and there are other certain private/intimate things they don't want fans to know.

God wants you to know Him!

In this weeks DVD we are introduced to a new character Darren, one of Eric work associates. In the story Kyle does a great job of portraying the Rich Young Ruler. This man who had it all was unable to walk away from his wealth. Compare the Rich Young Ruler to Paul's statement in Philippians 3.

Philippians 3:7-11

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

The “Life” Profit and Loss Sheet looks radically different for fans versus followers of Jesus.

God is passionate about knowing you and you knowing Him. What is one thing you can do this week to get to know God better? Get creative.

When I started dating Marisa I tried to be creative. One time I borrowed a row boat on Lake Ft. Phantom. I got grapes, cheese, crackers, and candles. Inspired by Tom Cruise and the movie Top Gun – I borrowed a buddy’s motorcycle and we went out to Dyes Air Force Base and watched the B-1 Bombers do their thing and go’s.

God is passionate about knowing you and you knowing Him. What is one thing you can do this week to get to know God better? Get creative.

God is the creator and he is very creative and imaginative.

The other night Marisa and I went for a walk by the pond near and we came across a Salamander. We have seen them in our neighbourhood before. I decided to move off the path closer to the pond and when I tried to pick him up with two sticks he squirmed and scared me half to death. The same God who makes salamanders that can survive in Alberta would love to enjoy the salamanders and sunsets with you.

Go for a walk with Him. Modify your prayer life from a list of needs to friendly conversation. Enjoy a personal time of worship. Watch a sunrise or sunset together. Read your Bible asking God to help you get to know Him better.

3. Fans choose knowledge, Followers embrace Intimacy.

Undoubtedly one of the best ways to get to know God is through Scripture. However, don’t substitute knowing the Scripture for knowing God. There is a difference.

Do you recall what Jesus said to the Pharisees in **John 5:39**: *You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

Don’t get me wrong on this. Jesus referenced, read, and quoted lots of Scripture.

Bible study, Connect Class, Home Groups, Devotionals all help us get to know God better but they are no substitute for knowing and walking with God.

Fans choose knowledge, Followers embrace Intimacy. Let’s come back to our **original story with Simon the Pharisee and the Sinful Woman.**

Some of us are no different than Simon. Jesus comes into our lives and we treat Him with great disrespect and we do not honor Him. Simon knew a lot about Jesus; he even calls him teacher.

Simon was willing to know about Jesus but not know him.

Jesus, who knew his thoughts, comes into his house and he exposes Simon's lack of hospitality and disrespect.

Simon - I came into your home and you did not greet me with a kiss but she kisses my feet.

Simon - I came into your home and you did not wash my feet or provide anything for me to wash my feet. She washes them with her tears and her hair.

Simon - I came into your home and you did not anoint my head with oil and yet she anoints my feet with perfume.

Then Jesus tells Simon:

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.”⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” (Luke 7:47-50)

Followers of Jesus recognize they have been forgiven of much and they love lots.

The truth is we are a lot like Simon and yet we would say, “I would never treat Jesus like that,” and yet we do. We invite Jesus into the home of our heart and then we pretend like he isn't there and we entertain others. In fact we are often embarrassed and ashamed to have around. He is like the friend we have that we don't want anyone to know that we have.

Fans choose knowledge, Followers embrace Intimacy.

In Luke 9:23 Jesus said: ***If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23***

To follow Christ you will have to get to know Him.

In worship you can sing songs about God or to God. I like to sing songs to God.

Response: *I Love You Lord*

Jesus you are welcome here!

Tell God: I want get to know you better this week? What would you like to do?