

In our last podcast we continued to explore the idea of whether God be persuaded or have his mind changed. We learned that God created time and He sits outside of time; but He loves to deal with His creation through our reality, through time, and interact with us in our space, and our choices, to accomplish His purposes in our lives, working with and through our free will.

Still, **Yahweh** always operates according to His **Plan-A**, and there has never been a Plan-B or Plan-C and there never will be any another plan except for **Plan-A**. And His plan is always rooted in relationship and a desire for intimacy, a passion to share Himself with those who truly, at all costs, are willing to let the Spirit of God cause them to call on His name.

We also jumped into the second challenge to the Satan, and the Satan was permitted to inflict Job, from head to toe, with boils and sores. We found him sitting in ashes scraping the puss out of his wounds with broken pieces of pottery. This led us to our one and only encounter with Job's wife, who, consistent with the themes in this book, used an inversion and told Job to just curse ("barak") God and die.

### ***Job 2:9-10***

Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? **Curse** God and die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed be caused to have received the good from God and not be caused to have accepted the evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Last week we addressed her personal ordeal that led to this declaration, but let's dive into the response from Job beginning with what the Spirit said about Him.

### **Who is the Foolish One**

*"In all this Job did not sin with his lips."*

With the clarification, "*with his lips*," the Spirit is saying that Job spoke truth and did not error or miss the mark in what he said to his wife. We could simply take this little statement for what it is and move on, but this is a difficult statement to accept on its face. According to Jesus, the things Job said to his wife would have been enough to drag him before the Assembly and possibly make him guilty enough to be assigned a place in the fiery hell.

### ***Matthew 5:22***

But I **now** say to you that everyone who is **now** caused to being angry with his brother will in the **future** choose to be liable of the judgment. Whoever may say to his brother, "raca," "**RACA**" stupid, **STUPID** {or empty headed}, will in the **future** choose to be liable to the supreme council; and whoever says, 'You fool,' {literally, you moron"} will in the future choose to be liable of the hell, the fire.

The Hebrew "nabal" is the Greek equivalent of "raca." Job called his wife "nabal," stupid, or foolish which would have made Job liable or subject to God's council. It would give the Satan a legitimate reason to bring accusation against Job without **Yahweh** being the one to incite the conversation. How then can the Spirit say, "*In all this Job did not sin with his lips*"? Additionally, why did He even say this, why did the Spirit want us to know this?

### *The Issue of Sin Is Not What We Have Been Told*

The Spirit is setting us up for what He is going to reveal all throughout the narrative, and it goes to the very challenge between **Yahweh** and the Satan, the central theme if you may. The answer to this question, “why did the Spirit want us to know this?” goes to the heart and soul of what we studied in the book of **Revelation**, something that is so unnerving to the average “believer” that the religion of Christianity has for the most part ignored this truth, shunned this truth, or flat-out lied about this truth.

Let’s first get the obvious issue out of the way, and that is the issue of sin. Despite what we have heard in the religion of Christianity, the issue of the sins of humanity has never really been an issue of sin between God and man, only kind of an issue. Yes, I know that sounds utterly blasphemous and heretical. But again, this is the obvious issue, so do not trip on this statement but press into it to understand the heart of God.

When it comes down to the sins of humanity, God has always had a plan from the beginning, well, from even before the beginning. We are told that the cross was planned before God even laid the foundations of the earth. It was always **Plan-A**.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, the cross was not a reaction to man’s sin, and it was not a reaction to the dastardly deeds of the Satan and what many teach was a “coup” that the Satan surreptitiously pulled off in the garden. The events of the garden all transpired according to the plan of **Yahweh**, the one who created evil and uses evil as a necessary tool to accomplish His purposes. It all occurred according to His foreknowledge and intended purposes. Those who think the Satan pulled a fast one on God do not understand the Biblical narrative and they do not understand why the bite of the sumptuous fruit was necessary.

Putting the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden; giving man and the “*sons of God*” free will; giving the first command to man, which was to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; letting the Satan, that serpent of old, that deceiver, have access to the garden; the creation of woman who, unlike Adam, would be easily deceived by the serpent; the bite of the fruit; the willingness of Adam to sacrifice all for His bride, and take the second bite of the fruit knowing he would join her in sin and death; the sacrifice for sin which God used to cover their nakedness; the expulsion from the garden; it was all a part of the plan – **Plan-A**.

Keep in mind, with God dwelling eternally, outside of time, it is impossible for Him to react. He already knows the outcome to the situation that He orchestrated to accomplish His purposes and His purposes alone.

### **Isaiah 46:9-10**

Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'

Ok, I am going to say it, get ready, brace yourself, don’t cover your ears, don’t turn down the volume, rather, listen intently: “**The Sin of Humanity was always Yahweh’s plan!**” Yes, “**The Sin of Humanity was always Yahweh’s plan!**” It was not a mistake; it was necessary component of God’s overall plan.

Consider that while we were waiting for the manifestation of God as a man to break the power of sin

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<sup>1</sup> **Acts 2:23; Ephesians 1:3-11; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 13:8**

to enslave humanity, **Yahweh** established sacrifice as the means to address the sins of humanity.<sup>2</sup> This is why sin is only kind of an issue between God and humanity, because **Yahweh Jireh** (our provider) provided a way.

We see Him reveal the solution to the sins of humanity and establish the pattern after Adam and Eve sinned. God Himself sacrificed an animal and then used the skins of the animal to cover their nakedness, which represented the blood of the sacrifice covering their sin.<sup>3</sup> Their son Abel followed this pattern and offered an acceptable offering or sacrifice to God from the firstlings of his flocks and their fat portions.<sup>4</sup>

The pattern was set and understood from the very beginning. This is why in the opening scenes of the book of Job (again, Job is understood to be the oldest book in the Bible), we find Job sacrificing on behalf of his sons, just in case they may have sinned and “barak” – cursed God in their hearts.<sup>5</sup> The pattern was set, the pattern was understood, and the pattern was followed.

Despite what we have heard from the religion of Christianity, the issue of sin has never really been an issue of sin between God and humanity because God always provided a means to address our sin and to remove sin as a barrier, an obstacle for relationship. Even prior to the crucifixion, if anyone wanted a relationship with **Yahweh**, there has always been a means, always! And this was a worldwide phenomenon. The Spirit tells us in **Malachi 1:10-11** that the nations, the gentiles, understood this provision.

### ***Malachi 1:11***

For, from the rising of the sun to its going in, great My name among nations, and in every place perfume is caused to being offered to My name, and a pure gift, for great My name among nations {gentiles}, says **Yahweh Sabaoth** {**Yahweh** of the armies of heaven}.

With that said, it is also obvious that the sin of humanity is a huge problem, as it rots our soul, produces all manner of ugliness and terror which hurts ourselves, hurts others, destroys relationships, and it divides one from another, which is why it should be avoided. It simply is not healthy for our mental, emotional, or physical state of being, and it always destroys relationships and steals from our ability to live in peace.

Regarding humanity, sin is a huge deal, but between God and humanity, it is only kind of an issue, because a solution has always been provided for anyone who wanted it.

### **The True Problem of Sin**

So, let’s reframe the true problem of “sin” that exists between God and humanity, the issue that is so unnerving to the average “believer,” that the religion of Christianity has for the most part ignored the truth, shunned the truth, or lied about the truth.

This “sin” is not the sins of our humanity, that fleshly terror that we exist with day-in-and-day-out that causes us to choose things that are terrible for us and for others. This is a different kind of sin, a relational sin, where we fundamentally misrepresent God for our own benefit because we do not know Him, though

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<sup>2</sup> **Romans 6:6-7, Romans 8:2; 1 Corinthians 15:56-57; Hebrews 2:14-15**

<sup>3</sup> **Genesis 3:21**

<sup>4</sup> **Genesis 4:4**

<sup>5</sup> **Job 1:5**

we may profess ardently Him. It is sin based on blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, an unforgivable sin.<sup>6</sup>

The central issue between God and humanity, or let's refine this even more specifically, between God and those in His own household, is intimacy, relationship: whether we **now** are **knowing** Him intimately for who He is, honoring Him for who He is, accepting Him for who He is, and not for who we want Him to be.

Biblically, this idea of "knowing" is wrapped up in the picture of sexuality between a husband and a wife, for it captures the idea of the most intimate connection and communication that is based not just on shared experience but on a giving and receiving that is safe and secure because it is rooted in the true knowledge of the other and is established in love. It is the idea of becoming one flesh.<sup>7</sup> In effect, that is what God desires for us and Him: uncompromised unity, one flesh, established in love.

In the book of *Revelation*, we discussed that worldwide there are over 42,000 various denominations or sects of Christianity, with 200 of them in the United States. Just think of that level of division; it is mind-numbing. There are over 42,000 different versions of what Christianity should be and over 42,000 different versions of who **Yahweh** is, and each group believes they possess the truth. That begs the question, who actually knows Him?

Just to give you an idea of how intense **Yahweh** is about this issue, all the stories or parables Jesus told about the servants in His own household, those who are cast out into outer darkness where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth, all center on this issue of "knowing," intimately, **Yahweh** by His name. He divides between those who worship Him for who He says He is and those who worship Him for who they want Him to be.<sup>8</sup> The later are cast out into outer darkness.

This was the mind-blowing dividing line in *Revelation 11:1* where God marked as His own those who are now in His "Sanctuary" now worshipping Him. He marked them separate and distinct from those in the "temple" at large who are so busy ministering to others, worshipping God, serving, making sacrifice and offerings, and so on. For those in Christianity who are who are so proud of how hard they have worked for God, this division is unimaginable.

The dividing line is based on His name. **Yahweh** is the **I AM** and there is no other, the source of all things all the time (which includes the invasion of evil into our world). We might even say that this name, the **I AM**, is the very definition of grace, for it captures all that comes from Him.

Just to be clear, "**I AM**" is the name of God; it is and not a title. When Moses first encountered God at the burning bush, Moses asked Him for His name. "God says to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" (in Hebrew, "Haya aser Haya"); and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM ("Hayah") has sent me to you.'" Then He went on to say that "YHWH" (**Yahweh**), which is derived from the Haya, is His memorial name for all generations; the name He desires us all to know and to use.

### **Intimacy with God**

What does this mean for humanity and for those in His household, what does this look like practically to accept that He is **I AM**? To be clear, we are not talking about a mental awareness or some religious pontification about God. This goes to the very nitty-gritty of our lives. With our heart, mind, soul, and strength, do we let Him be our **I AM**, do we live in grace and therefore function on a day-in-and-day-out basis as if He is our only provision for all things all the time – for both the "shalom" that which is good peaceful and the "ra," that which is evil? Are we thankful for both the "shalom" and the "ra" as a necessary

<sup>6</sup> *Matthew 12:32-32; Mark 3:29-30; Luke 12:10*

<sup>7</sup> *See Ephesians 5:22-33*

<sup>8</sup> *Matthew 8:12, 13:42, 50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30; Luke 13:28*

provisions for our lives?

Do we accept Him as **I AM** of all creation, all that exists in both the seen and the unseen realms, the one who is never surprised and can therefore never react, but who always operates according to His will, His **Plan-A**?

Jesus explains this sort of relational intimacy that He desires when He discussed those who may enter the kingdom of heaven, those who will spend eternity with Him, those who will be like Him (which is the gift given exclusively to the bride of Christ), and those who may not enter the kingdom of heaven.<sup>9</sup> This is one of those truths that is largely ignored, avoided, lied about, or twisted by the religion of Christianity.

### ***Matthew 18:3***

Truly I now say to you, unless you may be caused to be converted ***and*** may choose to become like little children, you may not enter the kingdom of heaven.

With the use of this monumental conjunction "***and***," Jesus explains that there are two steps that we must take to be permitted entrance into the kingdom of heaven. Most of us have been taught that there is only one step and that is to be born-again. But that only addresses the first half of this sentence, not the entirety.

**Step-1.** We must be caused to be converted by God, or in our vernacular, born-again. We cannot cause ourselves to be born-again, this is a work of the Spirit of God. This is the message that has been correctly shouted so loudly in our society, but it is also where much of the religion of Christianity stops in their evangelical message to humanity. Jesus lays out **Step-2** as being necessary to entering the kingdom of heaven. That specific conjunction, "***and***," is probably one of the most important words in all the Bible.

**Step-2.** We must choose to become little children (literally like an infant), utterly dependent upon **Yahweh (I AM)** for all things all the time, just like a little child. The verb "*become*" is rendered in the *middle* voice, indicating that this is our choice. It will not be done to us or for us, but we must exercise our free will to choose to live as a tiny little child dependent upon our Father.

A little child looks to his or her parents to be their provider, their protector, their shelter, their comfort, their guide, their everything. That is the nature of the relationship **Yahweh** desires to have with humanity, for a child completely trusts his or her parents with all that they are.

For His part, this sort of relational intimacy is fundamentally started, built on, and completed by grace, by what God does for us and through us. For our part, it is based on trust, which practically looks like our *willingness* to open ourselves up to receive all that He is and all that comes from Him. Again, this sort of intimacy has overtones to the image of sexuality where a wife opens her legs and receives into her body, into her soul, the love of her husband.

### ***His Name = Grace***

It is this picture of God's grace, what He does for us and through us – through giving Himself to us – that **Yahweh** has explained Himself with all those beautiful compound names we discussed previously. He wants us to understand that to live in Him, to abide in Him, to have the right to enter the kingdom of

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<sup>9</sup> 1 John 3:2

heaven, we need to be *willing* to let Him cause us to look only to Him to be our source for all things all the time, our **I AM**.

- **Yahweh Tsidkenu:** **Yahweh** our righteousness.
- **Yahweh Shamah:** **Yahweh** who is there. He is there all the time, wherever we are, He is.
- **Yahweh Mekoddishkem:** **Yahweh** who sets us apart, or sanctifies us, for Himself.
- **Yahweh Qanna:** **Yahweh** who is jealous over every aspect of our lives; He wants us and will do whatever it takes to get us, if we are *willing*.
- **Yahweh Jireh:** **Yahweh** our provider of all things all the time.
- **Yahweh Shalom:** **Yahweh** our peace, our shelter of rest, the quiet in our soul.
- **Yahweh Yasha:** **Yahweh** who saves us from this world, saves us from ourselves (from those sins of humanity), and saves us from the Beast of **Revelation** (from worshipping another), and who saves us from the woman who rides the Beast.
- **Yahweh Raah:** **Yahweh** our shepherd, the one who both guides and establishes all our steps, whether for peace (“shalom”) or for evil (“ra”). He leads us, guides us, and holds our right hand along the journey.
- **Yahweh Nissi:** **Yahweh** our banner, the rallying point for connection and safety, the one we run to when trouble is near.
- **Yahweh Rapha:** **Yahweh** the healer of our heart, mind, soul, and strength.
- **Yahweh Sabaoth:** **Yahweh** of hosts, **Yahweh** of heaven’s armies, the one who is in absolute control of all the angelic beings, those who honor Him and those who despise Him. They are all His servants.
- **Yahweh Mazen:** **Yahweh** is our shield, our provision in battle, our protection and defender.

Through understanding His name, the Spirit of God wants us to understand and accept our abject poverty, both spiritually and physically. If He lifted His finger of protection or provision from our lives, even for a moment, we would be able to do nothing on our own. He holds our life and our very sanity in His hands. There is nothing we can do to make our own way.

His name is the essence of grace. Everything comes from God, and we are just *willing* receivers of His mercy, His gifts, His life, His personhood. This is the pathway to intimacy with **Yahweh**. Knowing and betting our lives on His name is the difference of division that marks those who may enter the kingdom of heaven and those who may not. We must know Him by His name, **Yahweh**, so we can call Him by His name, the “Haya,” our **I AM**.

To simplify our part, our *willingness* to trust Him and to open our very self to Him, it all goes back to the three things we need to believe. If we believe just these three things, everything else in our journey of faith falls into line. And believing the three things is what allows us to enter His rest. The three things are:

1. **Yahweh** is the **Adonai**, the Lord, the only ruler and absolute dictator of all things all the time. Nothing happens in our lives that He has not already appointed, for, as King David said, it has already been written down in the books.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> **Psalm 139:16**

2. **Yahweh** is good, the only one who is good, and therefore all He does in our lives, all that He has appointed for us, is an expression of His goodness, an expression of His *agape* love for us, for God is *agape* love.<sup>11</sup>
3. We are aliens and strangers in this world. We do not belong to this world. We belong to the kingdom of heaven; therefore, God **MUST** circumcise our attachments to this world so that we might possibly come to abide with-Him-and-in-Him.<sup>12</sup>

Keeping it simple so we can easily remember these 3 truths:

1. **Yahweh** is the Lord
2. **Yahweh** is good
3. We are aliens and strangers in this world

Circling all the way back around to this issue of sin. Did Job sin with his lips when he called his wife “nabal,” foolish or stupid? According to Jesus, that fits into the category of what we might call the sins of humanity. But that is not the “sin” that the Spirit of God is addressing.

With the line, “*In all this Job did not sin with his lips,*” the Spirit is telling us that “*in all this*” – not just his dealings with his wife – but in all the devastation, destruction, loss of life, loss of health, loss of resources, and loss of dignity, Job did not abandon that place of relational intimacy with God, that place of utter dependence for all things all the time, and Job did not misrepresent God by castigating God as foolish or “nabal” for what He, **Yahweh**, needed to do to Job. He did not even “balak” or bless God with an inverted spirit such that the words He spoke sounded good but were merely words of religious pretense. He meant what He said.

### ***Job 1:21-22***

He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. **Yahweh** gave and **Yahweh** has taken away. Blessed be the name of **Yahweh**." Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

### ***Job 2:10***

But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

In this next section, we move away from the heavenly dynamic and the heavenly view of events and are thrust down to earth to witness the raw physical and emotional experience of Job as he travails through this time of deep suffering and affliction. We will see very clearly the difference between what Job says with his lips and what his friends have to say, friends who only understand the sins of humanity and who do not understand the **sin** of not knowing **Yahweh** by His name – that sin which leads to apostasy, which leads to the misrepresentation of **Yahweh** in the form of religion that is demarcated by an obsession

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<sup>11</sup> **Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19; Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3; Romans 3:10-12; John 4:8, 16**

<sup>12</sup> **See John 15:19, 17:14-16; Philippians 3:20; 1 Peter 1:17, 2:11; Hebrews 11:13-14**

with the **Work of our Hands** – with trying very hard to be good for God.

### **Job's Three Friends, a.k.a. "the Boys"**

#### ***Job 2:11-13***

Now when Job's three friends heard of all the evil that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him.

When they lifted up their eyes at a distance and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky. Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.

Let's stop here and we will pick up in our next episode with the Boys.

I am glad you tuned in and have been ready to listen.