

“Ask Me Anything!”

John 14:8-14

There are two things I want you to remember from today’s message. If you remember these two Bible principles, it will change your outlook on life:

- It’s not what you know, it’s _____ you know. (who)
- It’s not who you are, it’s _____ you are. (whose)

Let’s see these two principles at work in today’s Bible verses.

1. Jesus shows us what God is like.

John 14:8, Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

⁹ Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.

¹¹ Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

- It’s not what you know, it’s WHO you know. It’s not who you are, it’s WHOSE you are.

Philip says, “Jesus, if we could just see God, that would satisfy us.” Let’s give Philip credit for having his heart in the right spot. Satisfaction for him is a spiritual journey.

In our society, here in Wythe County, how would people you know answer this question, “What do you need to be satisfied with your life right now?”

Jesus makes this claim to Philip: “Let me spell it out for you Philip, since you’ve been a bit slow to catch on ... You want to see God, the Heavenly Father. You HAVE seen Him and you ARE seeing Him right now because you are looking at ME.”

There are two ways, Jesus said, that He’s reflected the Father among them:

- His words. God has inspired Jesus to say what He’s said.
- His actions. God has given Jesus complete authority to work without limitation.

Hebrews 1:3, The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being ...

2. Believing in Jesus unlocks significance.

John 14:12, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

- It's not what you know, it's WHO you know. It's not who you are, it's WHOSE you are.

"I tell you the truth" means "hold on to your seats!" Jesus is about to say "I am an ANYONE and ANYTHING God."

Because power or authority or ability doesn't come from what you know, but who you know, ANYONE can play a part in changing the world just like Jesus did.

Because pedigree, heritage, and our past accomplishments mean nothing in God's strategy, ANYONE who belongs to God (It's not who you are, but whose you are) is invited to live a life of incredible significance.

Jesus claims that YOU can do the same, and even greater, works than He did. We might scoff at such a notion ... especially if we look at our talent, skill, intelligence, or strength; but, none of that is mentioned here as unlocking significance. Belief does that. Belief, trust, faith, and dependence on God makes You significant.

MAIN POINT: It's not what you know, it's WHO you know. It's not who you are, it's WHOSE you are.

What kind of works? What could possibly be greater than what Jesus already did? John 17 explains that. We'll get to that during the first three weeks of November. [That's called 'a tease', be sure to be here in November to learn more.]

3. 'Anything' is possible with Jesus.

John 14:13-14, You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

Because it's not what you know, but who you know; and it's not who you are, but whose you are ... 'anything' is possible.

To understand what 'anything' means look at this phrase in the verse, "so that the Son can bring glory to the Father." The purpose of praying and seeing an answer to our prayer is to give God glory. We pray for many reasons:

- We pray out of desperation.
- We pray to help others.
- We pray to get personal help.
- We pray from routine or obligation.

'Anything' type prayers are motivated by seeing God get glory. When our prayers focus more on God and less on people, we begin to pray 'in Jesus name.'

Remember, in Matthew 6 the disciples weren't too shy to say to Jesus, "teach us to pray." Prayer is about the posture of the heart, the attitude of gratitude, and far less about getting the right words in the right order.

Getting 'anything' in prayer means focusing on 'nothing' but God's glory. Think for a moment about a prayer concern you have ... something big, something that's super important to you. Now, can you pray for that without mentioning it to God? "God, You know my heart and right now my deepest desire is for You to receive all the glory, honor, and praise You deserve. Thank You for showing Your grace in our lives. Amen."

Remember, if you pray for 'anything' then 'anything' from God is okay with you, right?

When your heart is right, when what you want desperately from God is more glory for Him ... then, you are ready to get specific with your 'anything.'

Let me add a third principle from the two you've already learned this morning:

- It's not what you know, it's who you know. (who)
- It's not who you are, it's whose you are. (whose)
- It's not what you want from God, it's just that you want God.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we agree that life's significance comes through seeing the 'Father' through the 'Son.' More than seeing, we are believing for greater works among us. Help us to ask You for anything. Oh God, we are in want of You. In Jesus' name, amen."