

Encounters with Christ

Class Composite

Heard Lowry

2006

If the Bible carries one repeated message about God,

it is that he wants to be known.

Tim Stafford

Outline of the Class

- **Introduction**
- **The Encounter Image**
- **Encounters with God**
- **Encounters with Christ**
- **Encounters with others**
- **Summary**

Encounters with objects

What are the most dramatic encounters that you have had with an object or animal?

Softball (at Steve's house)

Basketball

Rock

Tree limb

Thorn

Deep water

Door (at night)

Automobile

Ditch (Gray's Cove)

Skunk

Yellowjacket

Bad Dog

Opossum (driving to work)

Deer

Mouse / Rat

Cat (David's expertise)

Snake

Spider

Life is about encounters – we can't always avoid them

Encounters with other people

What are the most dramatic encounters that you have had with people?

Boss

Teacher

Police

Ex-something

Bureaucrat

Manager

Friend

Boxwell; tarzan yell; accosted by scout

Jumping on a visitor (wrestling)

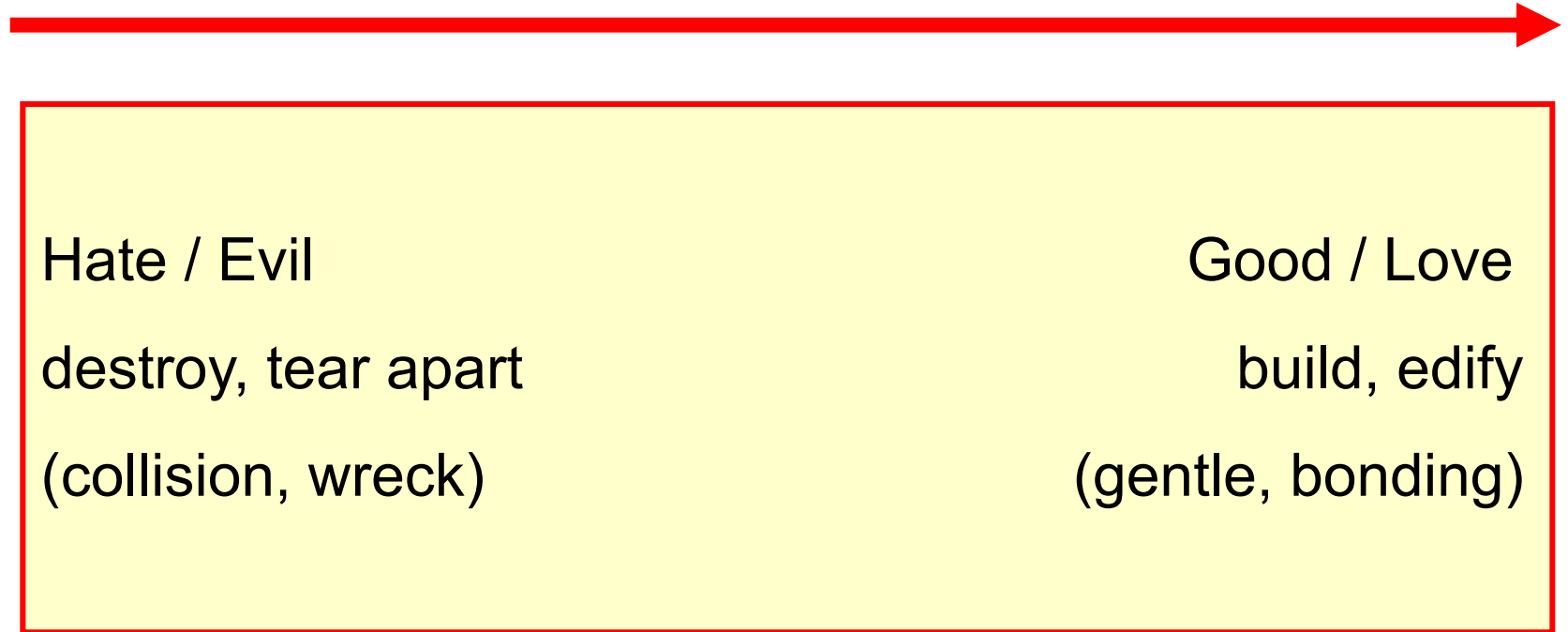
Helping a stranger stranded on the side of the road

Someone giving your car a jumpstart

Telemarketer or other salesman

Life is about encounters – we do no Good living on top of a pole

The Range of Encounters



Wreck: permanently disabled by other people (even Christians)

Build: blend and add strength to the whole

Encounters are not always bad

The Old Testament is all about encounters with
God

The New Testament is all about encounters with
Christ

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

An encounter with Christ is an encounter with God

Who all do we Encounter?

- **God**
- **Holy Spirit**
- **Christ**
 - man
 - Son of God
- **Satan**
 - sometimes as a roaring lion
 - sometimes as an angel of light
- **Angels**
 - sometimes unawares
 - sometimes directly (as in Revelation)
- **Other People**

How does God show Himself to us?

- **by various means in the Old Testament**
 - To show His awesome power and presence
 - Accomplished by global / national miracles
- **through Christ in the New Testament**
 - To show His awesome Good
 - Accomplished by local / personal miracles

The Bible records encounters between Christ and others

Why did God give us these encounters?

- to get attention
- to promote obedience
- to give us information
- to establish a relationship

What did the encounter generate?

Awe:

people had to stop what they were doing and think

Why does God not show Himself today?

(for example, at a half time show...)

Isn't God's Goodness enough of a sign?

How has God shown Himself in His Creation? 1

more than just a revelation or a dream

Rain

Flood / Water Stoppage

Rainbow

Cloud

Hail

Wind

Voice/Whisper

Sounds of marching

Fire

Altar (Good)

**Sodom and Gomorrah
(Bad)**

Blinding Light

Plagues

Angels

Earthquake

We will try to focus briefly on one of these encounters each class

Encounter the Spirit

Too many of us don't want to encounter Christ

we want to encounter "the Spirit"

**We also want a "personal" encounter with a
manifestation of God/Christ**

rather than a personal relationship

**God loves us the way we are,
but he loves us too much to leave us that way.**

Leighton Ford

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

The officer at the Reno airport (No Excuses!)

Peanuts Cartoon

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God wants to help us open our eyes!

Thanks,
Morris

The plagues (encounters) should have opened Pharoah's eyes, but he was too willful and selfish.

Elijah asked to have his servant's eyes opened when they encountered the army of Aram so that he could see the Lord's army (2 Kings 6:8ff)

Too many of us don't want to encounter Christ

we want to encounter "the Spirit"

**We also want a "personal" encounter with a
manifestation of God/Christ**

rather than a personal relationship

Purpose of the Class

We will study encounters with Christ

- to see how he dealt with people
- to see how he will deal with us

What do we hope to learn from these encounters?

What Jesus wants us to see in Him as Christ

That He wants us to respond in His favor by loving God and man

We can “touch” Christ ourselves by reliving the encounters in His life

We will study, but must not micro-analyze them

People like me, who understand their faith primarily in terms of ideas, tend to concentrate on the teachings of Jesus and neglect his encounters....

Every biblical encounter with Christ is of relevance to our present encounter with him, inviting us to go deeper and know him better.

Knowing Christ, Alister McGrath

The encounter will measure how well we fit

2

Christ offers union through this encounter.

But we have to allow ourselves to be transformed.



An encounter with Christ should help shape us.

We should not fear the encounter

The encounter does not have to be frightening

**Not like the fear of having to meet with the principal
or your boss**

Jesus:

**We are friends if we obey his commandments
(John 15:14-15)**

**His yoke is easy and his burden light
(Matthew 11:29-30)**

- continual blisters or good fit?

**We can approach the throne with confidence
(Hebrews 4:16)**

How do we perceive our encounter with Christ?

- Introduction
- **The Encounter Image**
- Encounters with God
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Image of the Encounter

2



Do you know how to play?

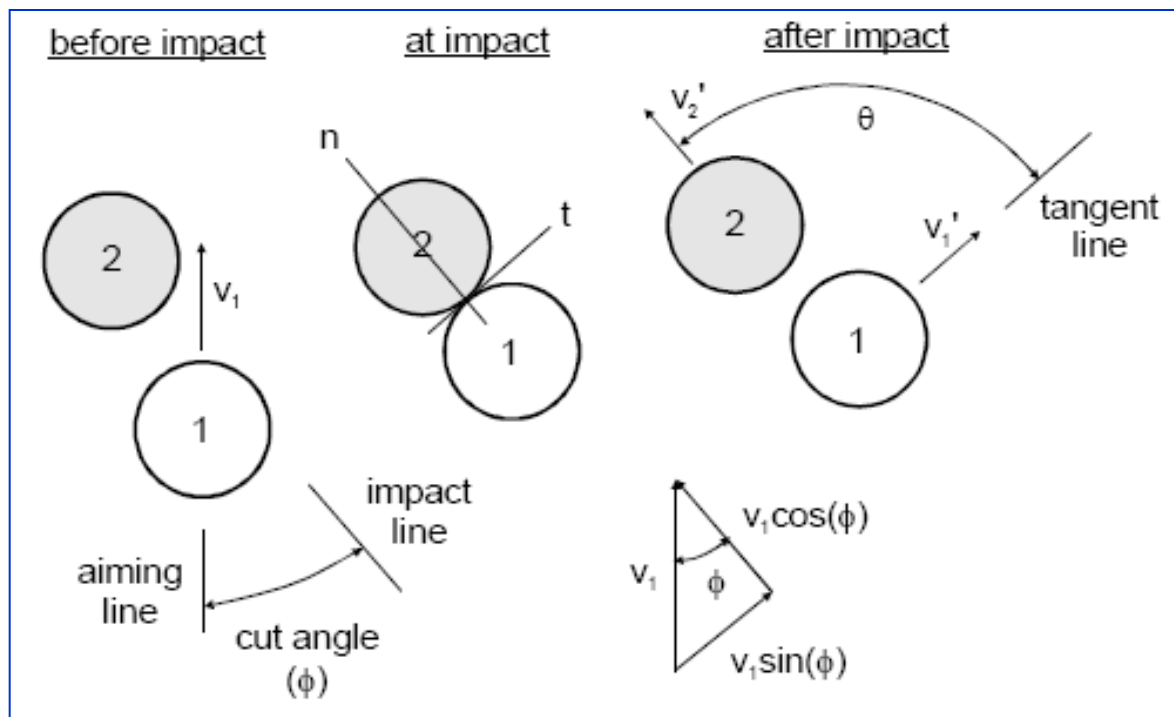
Collisions between billiards (pool) balls

- sudden change in direction possible
- transfer momentum or absorb energy

Analysis of the Encounter (1)

2

Conservation of momentum?

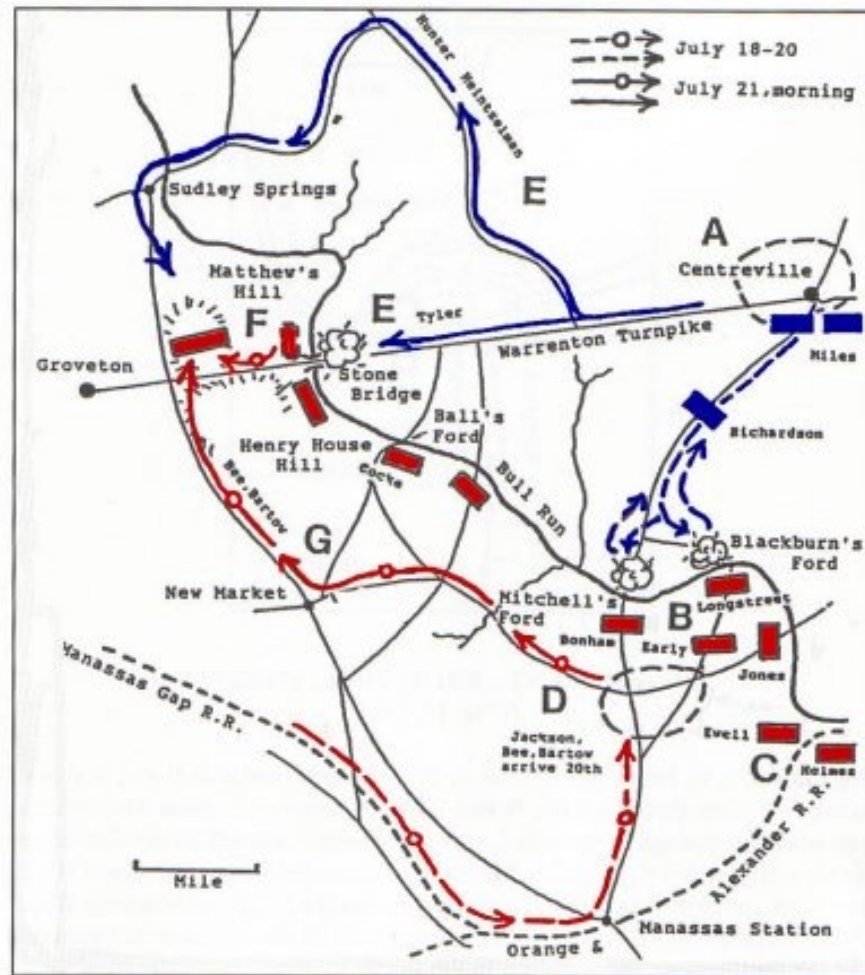


Battle strategy

- did the encounter go as planned?
- can we see that the encounter is about to happen from afar?

Analysis of the Encounter (2)

Battle strategy



Engagement - Blackburn's Ford, Virginia
July 18, 1861
First Battle - Bull Run, Virginia
July 21, 1861

First Battle of Bull Run

Analysis of the Encounter (3)

**Study the encounter:
frame by frame.**

**Freeze the moment –
just before impact.**

Far Side Cartoon

**Farmer Brown froze in his
tracks; the cows stared
wide-eyed back at him.**

**Somewhere, off in the
distance, a dog barked.**

Think of Jesus as the target ball:

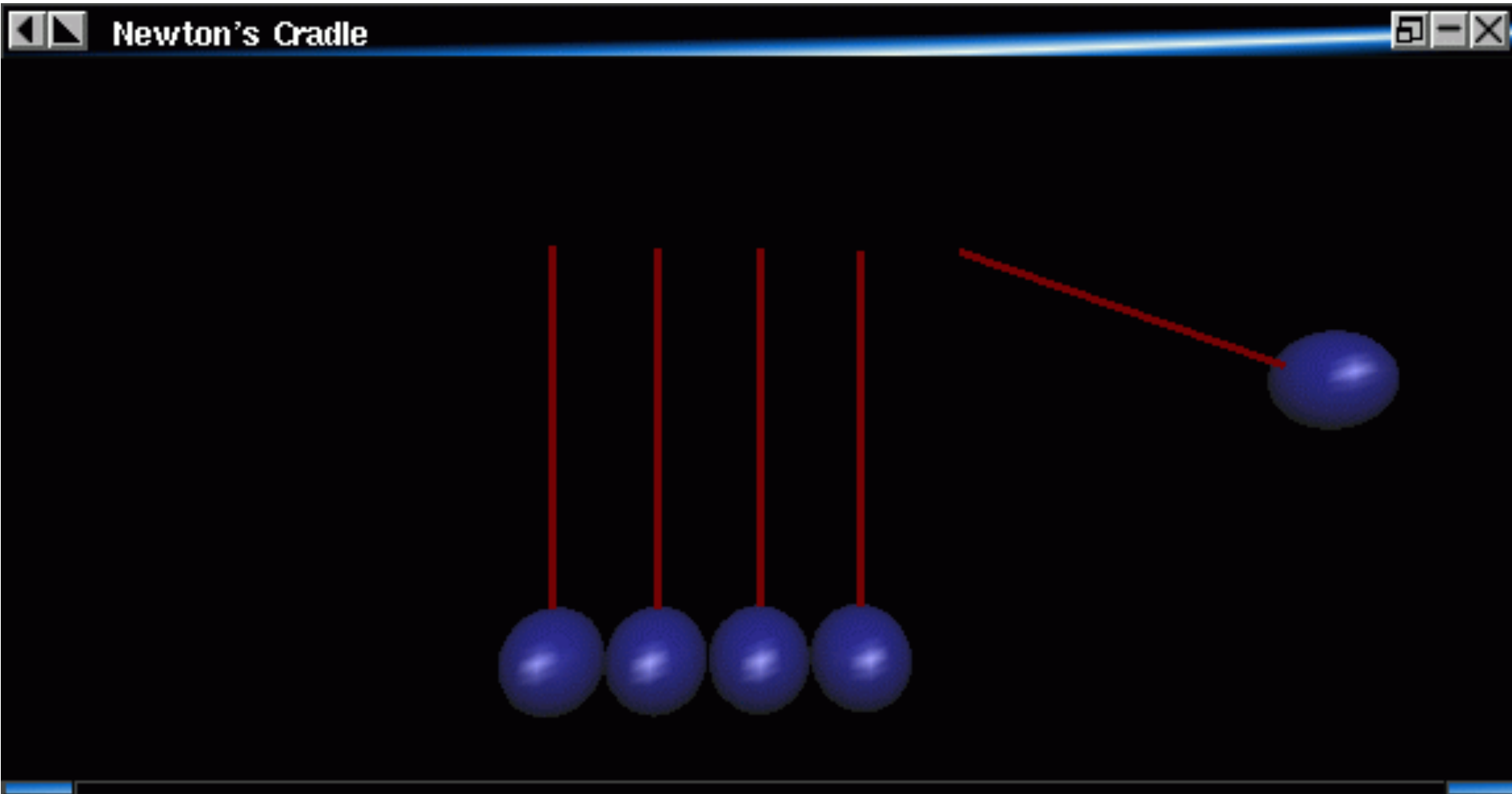
- **immovable in some cases**
 - pressure to submit to man's traditions
- **moved with compassion**
 - not immovable
- **bouncing back to attack**
 - hypocrites only

Think of Jesus as the cue ball:

- **is momentum or energy transferred?**
 - to get us going in the right direction → into the pocket
- **is the collision elastic or inelastic?**
 - do we absorb the energy that He gives us?
- **is spin imparted?**
 - spin causes a curve; not linear relationship; not what is expected
 - How hard is it to play pool if the other balls swerve to avoid the cue ball?
 - Trying to hit a curve ball (baseball)

Momentum exchange example

Newton's cradle



What kind of encounter do we need?

2

What kind of encounter do you want to save your child who wandered into a busy intersection... or who is about to step off a cliff?

Sometimes all we need is a gentle nudging back on track; we need a shepherd (or shepherding dog like Avalanche).

Sometimes we are so far off track that it takes a major push to get us back.

Encountering a Warm Blanket

- **Linus with his warm blanket...
softens encounters with the world**
- **Satan tries to take our comfort away from us...
like Snoopy stealing Linus' blanket**

Peanuts Cartoons

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Encounter with God Example (1)

What was one of the best ways for God to show Himself?

Light! (bring in a flash)

Remember how the world began...

One of the best one-on-one examples of this is Moses and the burning bush (Gen)

It stopped Moses dead in his tracks
“Made you look!”



Encounters with God were not always “well-received”

Encounter with God Example (2)

Moses meets God in the Burning Bush

It stopped Moses dead in his tracks...

Would we react the same way?

- Earth's crammed with heaven, And every common bush
afire with God; And only he who sees takes off his shoes
- The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

- J.S. Whale talks about running round the burning bush
taking photographs from suitable angles in stead of
taking off our shoes from our feet because the place
whereon we stand is holy ground.

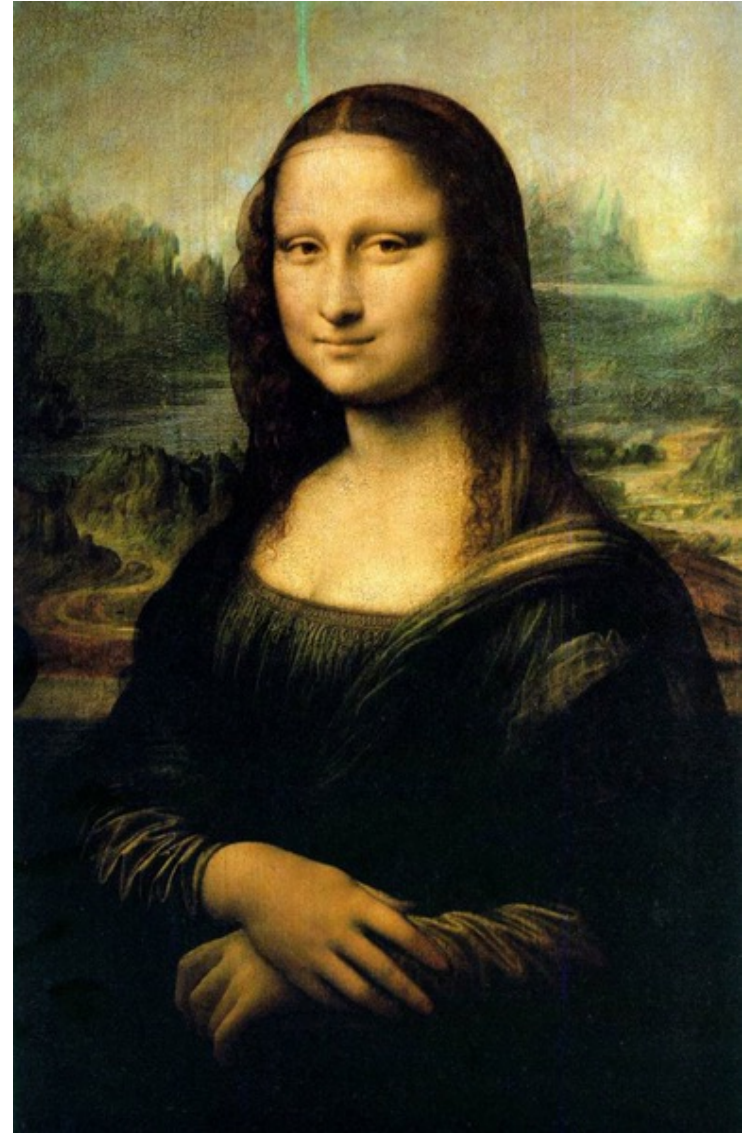
We need to have our priorities right

Encounter with God Example (3)

Meeting the beauty of great art

As you approach the Mona Lisa, you will see a number of signs, written in large letters and different languages, reading: “No Flash Photography, Please.” As you attempt to take in the subtleties of this most mysterious of all paintings, you’ll find yourself almost blinded by the stroboscopic effect of the nonstop camera flashes of the Philistines who never bother to stop and actually look at the painting.

Michael Gelb



Thought Question

Name the times when Christ directly encountered God here on earth.

His baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)

The transfiguration (Matthew 17:2)

His times of solitary prayer (especially in the Garden)

On the cross (He reached out to God, who had to let go)

Encounter with God through Angels

Refer to the Research Question

Irresistible force and immovable object:

only God has these characteristics,
and he does not oppose Himself

We perceive a hardness in God's truth, and think that we will bounce off...

(do we see Christ that way?)

God's Grace is His Truth, and we land gently
(soft catch @ AEDC)

James Dobson: Gripping the Soap: Just right...

Encountering the Rock (2)

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:18

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”

Matthew 21:42-44

**You can't break the Rock!
If you attack it, you will be broken!**

Encountering the Rock (3)

... they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:4

As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Romans 9:33

**The Rock can either nourish us...
or cause us to stumble.**

Encountering the Rock (4)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am **gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

The Rock is not necessarily sharp and painful...

**If you approach Him with Love
and recognize your need for Him.**

Encounter with God Example – Strange Fire (1)⁸

Nadab and Abihu disrespected God's miraculous fire.

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers,
put fire in them and added incense;
and they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord,
contrary to his command.

So fire came out from the presence of the Lord
and consumed them,
and they died before the Lord.

Leviticus 10:2

**God's miraculous fire descended again,
but for an entirely different purpose.**

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Encounter Checklist

- 1) Who initiated it? (who started the ball rolling?)
- 2) How violent was the encounter / collision?
- 3) Was it friend or foe? (did He have any Roman enemies?)
- 4) Did they act true or false? (were they testing Him?)
- 5) What was the reaction of Jesus?
- 6) Did Jesus ask them a question? (what do you want?)
- 7) What reaction did Jesus try to induce?
What did Jesus desire as an action? (Come, Go, Stay)
- 8) What reaction was caused in the others?
- 9) Was anything transferred? (power, touch, healing, etc)
- 10) How did Jesus treat the others?
- 11) How did they treat him?

How did Jesus treat those He encountered?

2

Think about:

- how he reached out
- how he served
- how he taught
- how he encouraged
- how he accused
- how he defended
- how he left them (high: Jairus, Legion...)

who was important to him?

**Encounters with Christ were only bad
when the intent of the “other” is hypocritical**

What was the reaction of Jesus?

What reaction did Jesus try to induce?

What reaction was caused in the others?

- **Compassion**
- **Shock**
- **Anger**
- **Disappointment**
- **Praise**
- **Make them think / re-think**
- **Obedience**
- **Discipline**
- **Fear? (with God only?)**
- **Amazement (temple...)**
- **change**

How many encounters were sudden / violent / traumatic / urgent?

- Jairus and woman
- Disciples in storm

How many double-takes?

- man cast out of the synagogue
- blind man seeing things wrong
- explanation of parables

Jesus needed to get away after some encounters with man. He needed to encounter God for a while to recharge.

Using an encounter as opportunities to teach

- being asked a question
 - Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
 - woman at the well (John 4:1-43)
 - “crumbs” from the table (Matthew 15:21-28)
- performing a miracle
 - healing a man’s withered hand on the Sabbath (Luke 6:6-11)
- witnessing some other event or object
 - sower (Matthew 13)
 - shepherd (John 10)
 - elderly woman contributing (Luke 21:1-4)
 - the temple (Luke 21:5-28)
- mediation
 - **decide between me and my brother (Luke 12:13-15)**
 - **sons of thunder (Luke 9:52-56)**
 - **woman caught in adultery (John 8:3-11)**

**Only love can be divided endlessly
and still not diminish.**

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Jumping on visitors to wrestle them



Description of Jake who encountered people at the church door:

“A friend of mine describes Jake, one of the older deacons in his church, as “the grand marshall of the foyer and the first line of defense against visitors.”

They smell like sheep, Lynn Anderson



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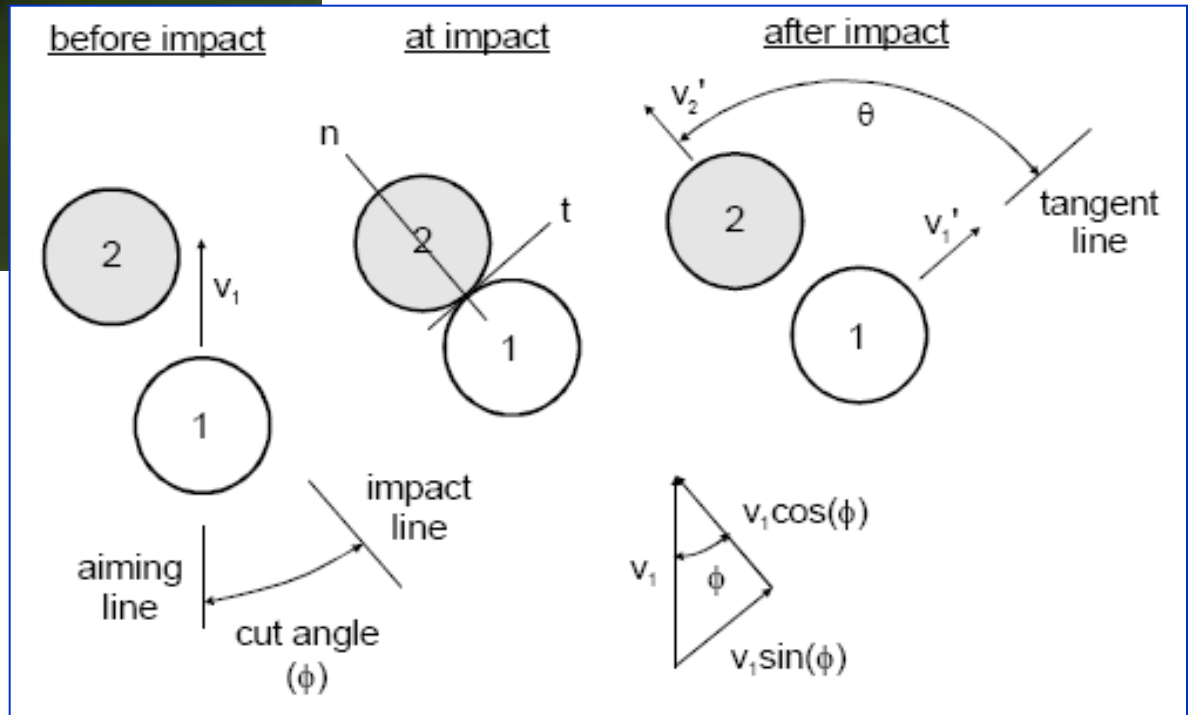
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Image of the Encounter



**Study the encounter:
frame by frame.**

Analysis



Physics studies encounters between matter and forces

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Encounter with God Example (Exodus 4-13)

3

God uses Moses to lead Pharaoh into an encounter –
God introduces Himself as the “I am”

First He convinces Moses with a snake and a leprous arm...

Moses acts as God and Aaron his prophet...

the people of Israel respond to the signs

first request to Pharaoh is without miracles,
just the name of God (I am the LORD)

second request involves the snake (Pharaoh's magicians could do)
then the plagues begin...

The plagues made Pharaoh think, but he was too willful!

10 Plagues:

1) Nile water → blood, 2) frogs, 3) gnats, 4) flies, 5) plague on livestock, 6) boils, 7) hailstorm, 8) locusts, 9) darkness, 10) firstborn

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**To know Christ through his encounters
is to appreciate how he transfigures lives
and changes futures.**

**Let us pray that he will continue
to encounter us in this same way.**

Alister McGrath

How did Jesus treat those He encountered?

Think about:

- how he reached out
- how he served
- how he taught
- how he encouraged
- how he accused
- how he defended
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What Part of Christ do we Encounter?

- Infant
- Teenager
- Adult
- Teacher
- Friend
- Healer/Physician
- King/Leader
- Lawyer
- High Priest
- Savior
- God's Son (image)

Outline of the Encounters

- In the beginning
- Healing / Salvation
- Relationships / Family / Kingdom
- Leadership / Authority
- Judgment
- Change / Conversion
- Worship
- Battle between Good and Evil
- Indirect

We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

[In the Beginning] Birth – the Inn

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Christ's first encounter with the world: no room

Luke 2:4-7

Wise men/manger; they gave, knowing that the world would be given something back (Contrast with Herod? He took so that he could be able to keep on taking)

no miracles here as might have been expected

[In the Beginning] Birth – Shepherds (1)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were **terrified**. But the angel said to them, "**Do not be afraid**. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:8-14

How non-threatening is a baby?
This baby has the power to save us all

[In the Beginning] Birth – Shepherds (2)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The effects of this encounter were long-lasting

Luke 2:15-20

[In the Beginning] Birth – Wise Men and a King (1)³

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to **worship** him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, **and all Jerusalem with him.**

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied...

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and **worship** him."

True and false worship: Magi and Herod

Matthew 2:1-8

[In the Beginning] Birth – Wise Men and a King (2)³

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and **worshipped** him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under...

Matthew 2:9-18

Herod encountered Christ at a distance, and reacted violently

[In the Beginning] Purification – The Temple

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Luke 2:22-25

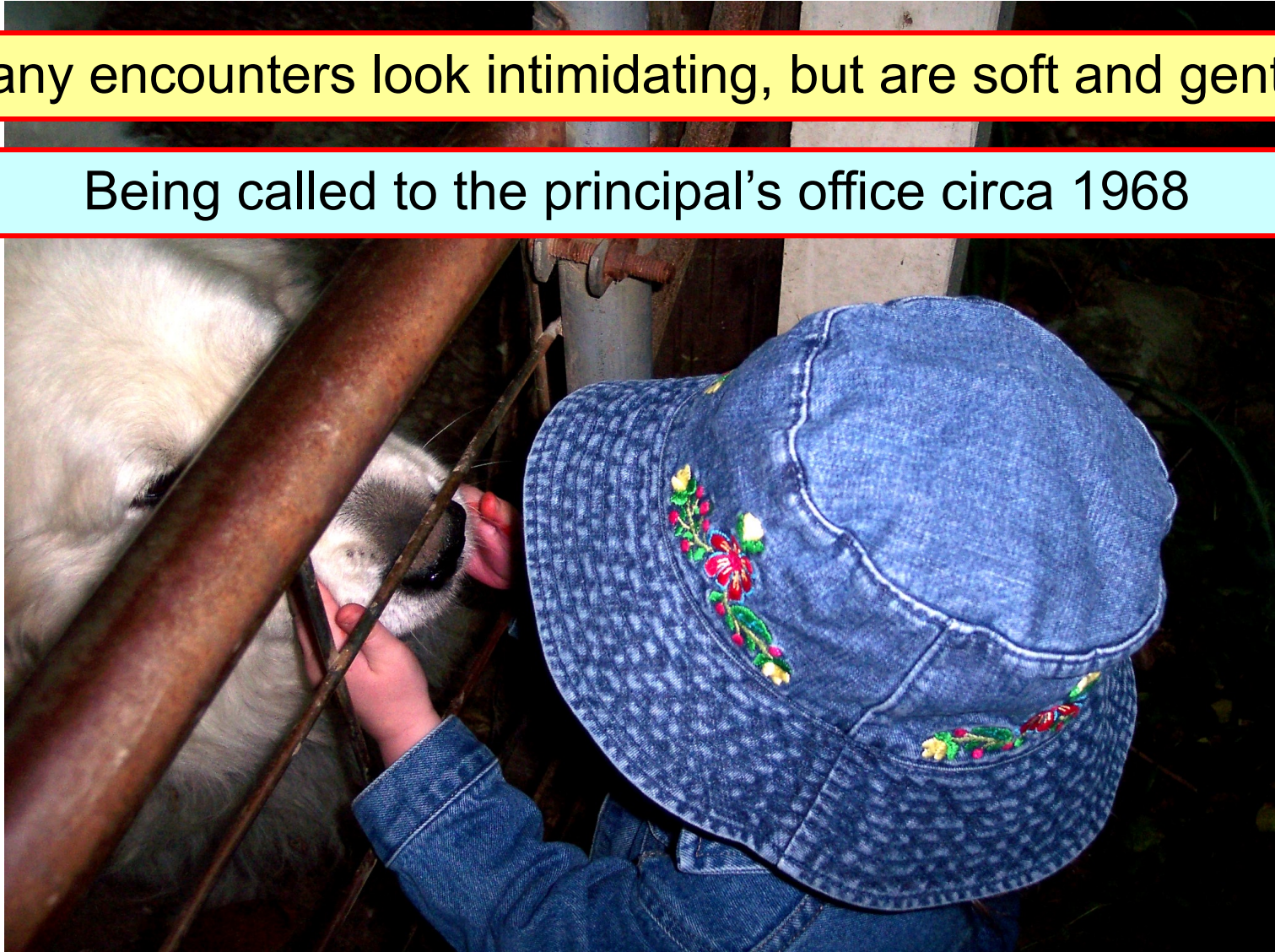
**We can't all be stars,
but we can all twinkle!**

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Many encounters look intimidating, but are soft and gentle!

Being called to the principal's office circa 1968



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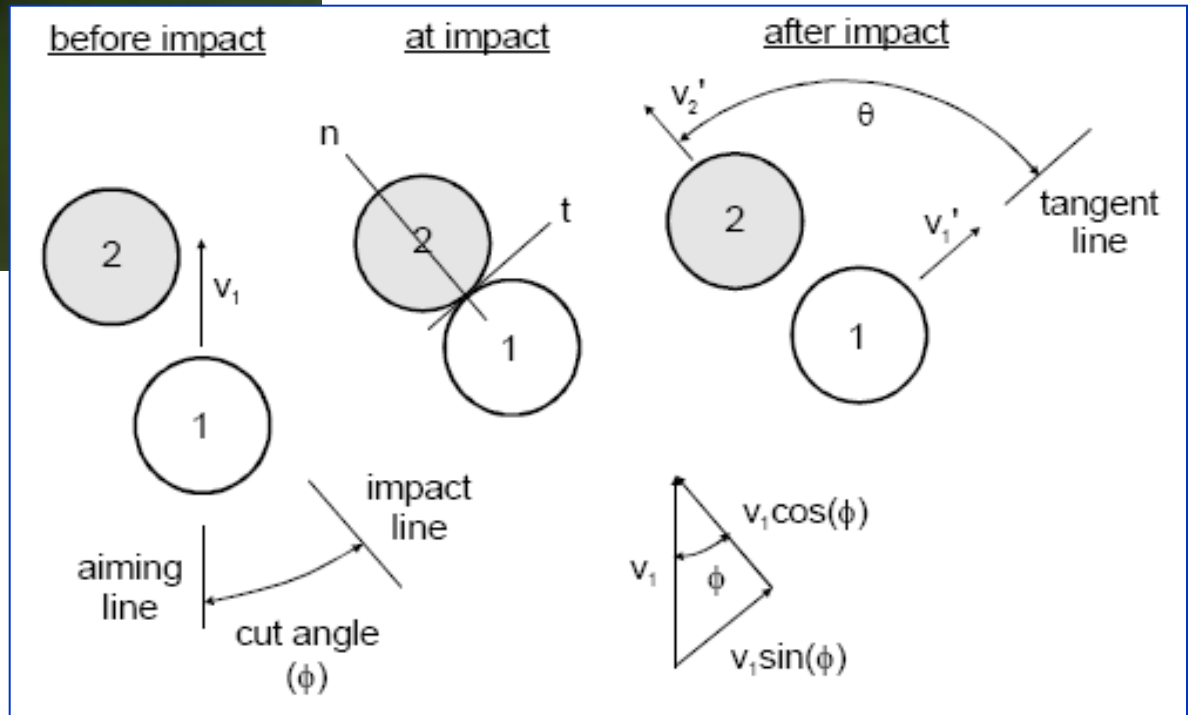
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Image of the Encounter



**Study the encounter:
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Analysis



The balls are all in motion; they are moving targets

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Encounter with God Example (Exodus 13)

God presents Himself to Israel with easy to follow images

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a **pillar of cloud** to guide them on their way and by night in a **pillar of fire** to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.

Exodus 13:21



God is always with us, it's just not always so spectacular!

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In the beginning

- **Birth**
 - the Inn
 - **Shepherds**
 - **Wise men and a King**
- Purification
 - Temple
 - Simeon
 - Anna
- Temple at twelve
- Growing up Summary
- The Forerunner
- Calling the disciples
- Recalling the call
- Beginning the Ministry

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Luke 2:22-25

[In the Beginning] Purification – Simeon (1)

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.

When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For **my eyes have seen your salvation**, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, **a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.**"

Luke 2:25-32

[In the Beginning] Purification – Simeon (2)

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "**This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel**, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Luke 2:33-35

A prediction of a great encounter with the world

[In the Beginning] Purification – Anna

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.

She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

Luke 2:36-39

Simeon and Anna were waiting by the pocket to be knocked in

[In the Beginning] Temple at twelve (1)

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.

When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.

After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

Luke 2:41-45

[In the Beginning] Temple at twelve (2)

After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished.

His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

Luke 2:46-51

First to encounter the mind of Christ:
Not what was expected!

[In the Beginning] “Growing up” summary

And the child **grew** and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

“Lost in the temple” story

And Jesus **grew** in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 2:40-52

[In the Beginning] The forerunner (1)

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way

In those days John the Baptist came,
preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:
"A voice of one calling in the desert,
'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

Matthew 3:1-3

John the Baptist was a "blocker" for Christ

[In the Beginning] The forerunner (2)

John the Baptist was quite an encounter himself

John's clothes were made of camel's hair,
and he had a leather belt around his waist.

His food was locusts and wild honey.

People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Matthew 3:4-6

[In the Beginning] The forerunner (3)

John the Baptist warns of the impending encounter

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them:

"You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3:1-10

[In the Beginning] The forerunner (4)

John the Baptist lets go of his own following

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'

I myself did not know him, but **the reason I came baptizing with water** was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him...

I have seen and **I testify that this is the Son of God.**"

John 1:29-34

John encounters Christ and because of Him - - God!

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (1)

... John was there again with two of his disciples.

When he saw Jesus passing by, he said,

"Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this,

they followed Jesus.

Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked,

"What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying,

and **spent that day with him.**

**We want God's help in our lives,
but not his interference with our hearts.**

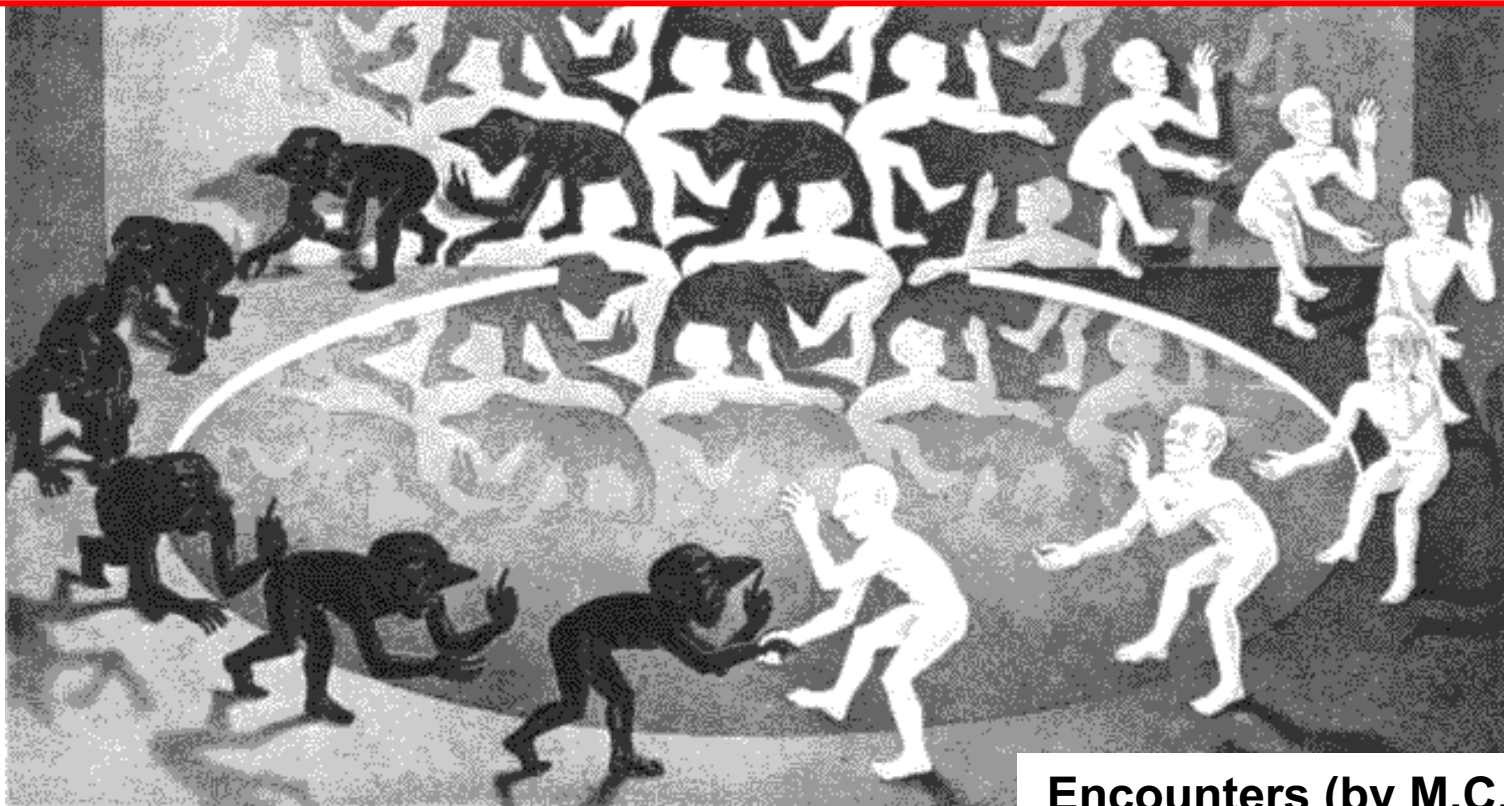
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Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Many times it is hard to understand what we are encountering
We all have a dark side that we don't show everyone!

David Elrod under my desk with a water bottle!



Encounters (by M.C. Escher)

The Old Testament is all about encounters with
God

The New Testament is all about encounters with
Christ

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

An encounter with Christ is an encounter with God

The Bible records encounters between Christ and others

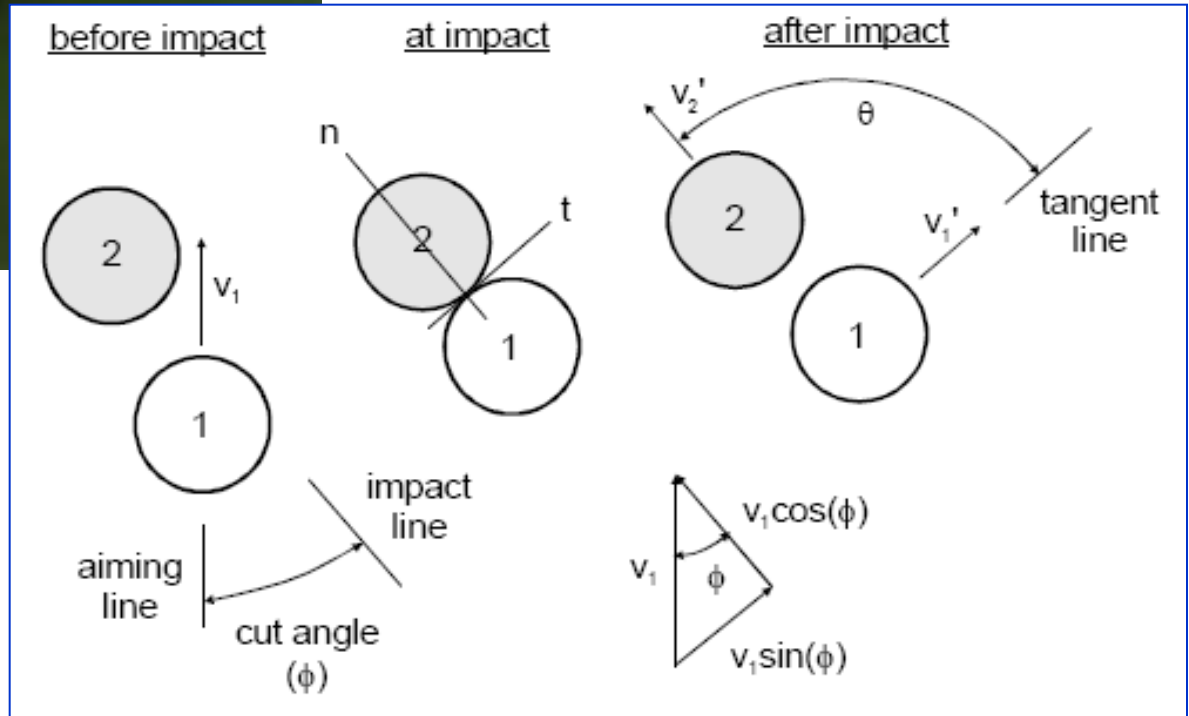
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Image of the Encounter



**Study the encounter:
frame by frame.**

Analysis



The balls are all in motion; they are moving targets

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Encounter with God Example -- Exodus 33 (1) 5

Moses encountered God as a friend.

Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "**tent of meeting**." Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of meeting...

And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent.

As Moses went in..., the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses.

Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped...

The LORD would speak to Moses **face to face**, as a man speaks with his **friend**.

Is His Goodness as brilliant as
the pillar of fire to us?

Exodus 33:7-11

Encounter with God Example -- Exodus 33 (2) 5

It is as though Moses is unsure God's presence will stay.

Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' ... If you are pleased with me, **teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.** Remember that this nation is your people."

The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you..."

Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here... What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

Exodus 33:12-17

Encounter with God Example -- Exodus 33 (3) 5

Moses had to be protected from his encounter with God.

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

But," he said, "you cannot see my **face**, for no one may see me and live."

Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. **When my glory passes by**, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and **cover you with my hand** until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my **face** must not be seen."

Exodus 33:18-23

"face to face" is a relative term

- **Introduction**
- **The Encounter Image**
- **Encounters with God**
- **Encounters with Christ**
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- **Summary**

- **In the beginning**
- Healing / Salvation
- Relationships / Family / Kingdom
- Leadership / Authority
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We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

In the beginning

- **Birth**
 - the Inn
 - Shepherds
 - Wise men and a King
- **Purification**
 - Temple
 - Simeon
 - Anna
- **Temple at twelve**
- **Growing up Summary**
- **The Forerunner**
- Calling the disciples
- Recalling the call
- Beginning the Ministry

[In the Beginning] Purification – Simeon (3)

5

Simeon waited for the Messiah, and was promised satisfaction. He saw the baby, and realized the complete Good that would eventually come from Him.

Mary and Joseph were amazed that anyone else (like Simeon and Anna) really understood their secret.

We may see the reaction of others to Christ, and not really understand why they are changed.

Simeon brought faith to His encounter with Christ.

What do we bring?

Thanks to David

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (1)

... John was there again with two of his disciples.

When he saw Jesus passing by, he said,

"Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this,

they followed Jesus.

Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked,

"What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying,

and **spent that day with him.**

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (2)

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

John 1:41-42

The encounter with Christ detached Andrew from John the Baptist and brought in Peter

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (3)

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee.

Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

Philip found Nathanael and told him,

"We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote -- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

John 1:43-46

Philip went to find Nathanael to bring him in, too.

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (4)

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

What happened here?

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that."

He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

John 1:47-51

Nathanael, a skeptic, was won over by his encounter

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (5)

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.

Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Mark 1:16-20

They dropped what they were doing and responded immediately!

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (6)

They dropped everything to follow Him. (even Judas...)

What was there about Christ that could cause that?

He drew people to Him with:

words, hope, concern, healing, power

He taught as one who had authority... Matt 7:28; Mark 1:22

When he began preaching, his impact was likened to the dawn; Mt 4:12-16

This was likely not their first encounter with Christ –

They knew Him.

Jesus did not just set up a school to teach;

he taught through his dealings (encounters) with people.

Would we have left all to be with Him?

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (7)

“The passage (Mk 1:16-20) offers no reason for Simon’s and Andrew’s decision to follow him.

It just happened.

The same pattern is repeated with James and John.

Christ looked into their eyes, and they saw something that eclipsed everything that had ever known up to this point.

We find something like this reaction within the crowds that hear him speak:

“they were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority.”

Knowing Christ, Alister McGrath

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (8)

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles:

first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew;

James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

Philip and Bartholomew;

Thomas and Matthew the tax collector;

James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

Simon the Zealot

and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Matthew 10:1-4

He gave a special set of twelve disciples additional authority.

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (9)

He appointed twelve to be apostles (later, 70 for a special job)

Encounter

God (through angel) → John the Baptist

↓
Andrew and another

↓
Peter → James

Jesus
↓
Philip
↓
Nathanael

(Note: A dashed red arrow points from Jesus to Nathanael, bypassing Philip.)

Call to follow Him

Andrew & Peter
(Mt 4:19-20)

James & John
(Mt 4:21-22)

Matthew
(Lu 6:27)

Philip
(Jn 2:43ff)

Appointment as apostles

Mt 10:2, Mk 3:13, Lu 6:12

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (10)

How did their choice affect the life of each disciple?

“Once Matthew left his wealth to follow Jesus we never hear him mention money or power again!” Michael Card

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Substitute “Christ” for
“kingdom of heaven”

Matthew 13:44-46

The value of Christ is greater than anything else!

[In the Beginning] Calling the disciples (11)

Christ continually knocks at the door to our heart

Ask and it will be given to you;

seek and you will find;

knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives;

he who seeks finds;

and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

Christ surely follows his own advice

In Luke 11, Christ prefaces this with a parable of persistence.
He will never give up, if we give Him a chance

We choose whether we open or not!

[In the Beginning] Recalling the Call

Afterward Jesus appeared Peter and several of the other disciples who were having no luck fishing. Jesus appeared and told them to throw the net on the other side of the boat, and they caught a net full of fish. When Peter realized that it was the Lord, he jumped into the water.

After they ate, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him more than the others, and Peter said yes. Jesus told him to feed His sheep. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

John 21:1-19

“The incident immediately calls to mind the first calling of the disciples, as narrated in Luke’s Gospel (Luke 5:2-10). It is as if history is repeating itself. The seven disciples present on this occasion are being called again. This time, it is the **risen** Lord who calls them.”

Knowing Christ, Alister McGrath

[In the Beginning] Other Followers

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him,

"I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

He said to another man, **"Follow me."**

But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Still another said, **"I will follow you, Lord; but first** let me go back and say good-bye to my family."

Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

[In the Beginning] Beginning His ministry (1)

5

First with miraculous creative power

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

John 2:1-5

Jesus was hesitant to encounter the world

[In the Beginning] Beginning His ministry (2)

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine.

John 2:6-9a

What other physical miracles did not heal?

Feeding of the 4000 and 5000; cursing of the fig tree

Walking on water; Calming the sea

Providing the tax coin in the fish's mouth

[In the Beginning] Beginning His ministry (3)

5

He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

Then he called the bridegroom aside and said,
"Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee.

He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

John 2:1-11

The wine was premium quality!

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
- Relationships / Family / Kingdom
- Leadership / Authority
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- Battle between Good and Evil
- Indirect

We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

Admiring the character of Christ is like looking through a kaleidoscope...

You never run out of patterns to admire.

Arlie J. Hoover

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Some people are on the very edge of losing control!

Fist of Death Dilbert Cartoon

Story of New York Teacher who gave this illusion

The Old Testament is all about encounters with
God

The New Testament is all about encounters with
Christ

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact
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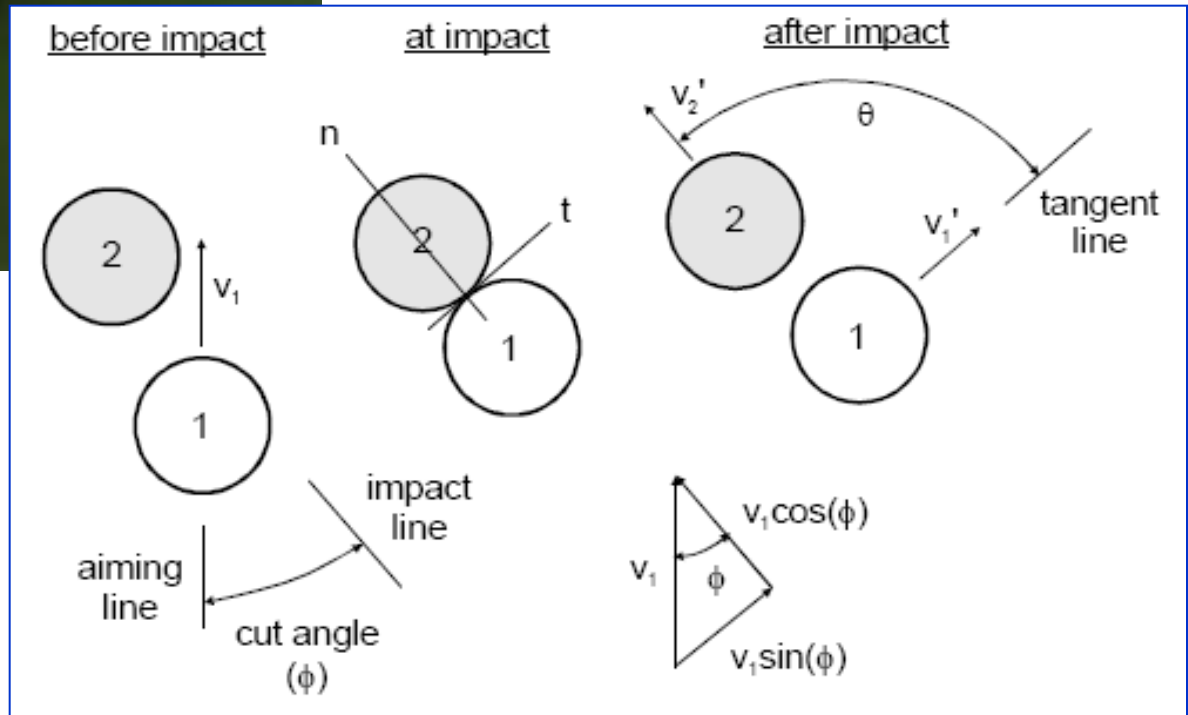
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Encounter with God Example – 1 Kings 19 (1) 6

Elijah encountered God in a way similar to Moses

Jezebel plots to have Elijah killed...

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life...

He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die.

"I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

He slept, and an angel woke him and fed him.

He slept again, and an angel woke him and fed him again.

Strengthened by that food, he traveled **forty days and forty nights** until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

There he went into a cave and spent the night.

Elijah is ready to give up,
but God gives him incredible strength.

1 Kings 19:1-9a

Encounter with God Example – 1 Kings 19 (2) 6

And the word of the LORD came to him:

"What are you doing here, Elijah?"

He replied,

"I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty.

The Israelites have rejected your covenant,

broken down your altars,

and put your prophets to death with the sword.

I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

1 Kings 19:1-11

Elijah tries to justify his discouragement

Encounter with God Example – 1 Kings 19 (3) 6

Then a **great and powerful wind** tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind.

After the wind there was an **earthquake**, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

After the earthquake came a **fire**, but the LORD was not in the fire.

And after the fire came a gentle **whisper**.

When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "**What are you doing here, Elijah?**"

Elijah repeats his justification for giving up.

Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel -- all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal... (nor) kissed him."

With God we are never alone.

1 Kings 19:11-18

Encounter with God Example – 1 Kings 19 (4) 6

God may arrive in **silence**,
but it is a **silence** that is greater
than all the special effects
Hollywood has ever devised.

God is a **silence** that answers.

Stephen Kendrick

- **Introduction**
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[In the Beginning] Leaving it all

Would we have left all to be with Christ?
Christ left it all to be with us! (PDE)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with
God something to be grasped,
but **made himself nothing**,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself and became obedient to death --
even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:5-8

Christ has been working in the background from the beginning!

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[Healing/Salvation] Introduction (1)

There is a parallel between physical and spiritual healing

The need was obvious to those who needed **physical** healing...

But only a small fraction knew that they needed **spiritual** healing,
and that it was the most important need.

Jesus answered them,

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

I have not come to call the righteous,
but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:31-32

Large crowds followed him, and he **healed** them there.

Matthew 19:2

[Healing/Salvation] Introduction (2)

Look at what the Messiah encounters in order to heal us:

He was **despised** and **rejected** by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

Like one from whom men **hide** their faces he was **despised**, and we **esteemed** him **not**.

Surely he **took up** our infirmities and **carried** our sorrows, yet we considered him **stricken** by God, **smitten** by him, and **afflicted**.

But he was **pierced** for our transgressions, he was **crushed** for our iniquities; the **punishment** that brought us peace was upon him, and by his **wounds** we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has **laid on him** the iniquity of us all.

...he **poured** out his life unto death, and was **numbered** with the transgressors.

For he **bore** the sin of many, and made **intercession** for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53

[Healing/Salvation] Introduction (3)

How did Jesus feel about encountering disease?

What a mass of hideous sickness Jesus must have seen.
Yet He was not disgusted but patiently healed them all.

Charles H. Spurgeon

Did He perform a global healing?

Why did not Jesus perform a blanket healing and thus avoid
“getting His hands dirty”?

Why did He have to come and live on earth among us?

Why did He not just come for the “event”? (crucifixion)

He came to be a personal Savior.
He healed those He encountered.

[Healing/Salvation] Introduction (4)

There is a tremendous difference between encountering someone who is a professional, as opposed to someone who really cares.

Peanuts Cartoon

We want someone to help us who is actively interested in our well-being and healing.

5 cents: Sometimes you get what you pay for!

[Healing/Salvation] Introduction (5)

Great crowds came to him, bringing the **lame**, the **blind**, the **crippled**, the **mute** and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he **healed** them.

The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing.

And they praised the God of Israel.

Matthew 15:30-31

The **blind** and the **lame** came to him at the temple, and he **healed** them.

Matthew 21:14

Jesus healed those who came to him.

[Healing/Salvation] Types (1)

The specific healings are of several types:

- **Blind**
- **Leprosy**
- **Crippled/paralytic**
- **Demon-possessed**
- **Issue of Blood**
- **Dead**

[Healing/Salvation] Types (2)

There are spiritual analogues to consider:

- **Blind** [cannot see God]
- **Leprosy** [defiled by sin]
- **Crippled/paralytic** [powerless to save]
- **Demon-possessed** [the evil within]
- **Issue of Blood** [dying]
- **Dead** [no eternal life]

He also heals our state of **Sin**

[Healing/Salvation] Blind (1)

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you **believe** that I am able to do this?"

Even though blind, they followed him inside.

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

Then he **touched their eyes** and said, "According to your **faith** will it be done to you"; and their sight was restored.

Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this."

But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

How could the man keep from telling about it?

Matthew 9:27-31

Was Jesus blind to their need, their request for help?

[Healing/Salvation] Blind (2)

As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him.

Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they **shouted all the louder...**

Jesus stopped and called them. "**What do you want me to do for you?**" he asked.

"Lord," they answered, "we want our sight."

Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes.

Immediately they received their sight and **followed** him.

Matthew 20:29-34

Was their need not obvious?

[Healing/Salvation] Blind (3)

Essentially the same is the story of Bartimaeus

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "**Cheer up!** On your feet! He's calling you."

Throwing his cloak aside, he **jumped** to his feet and came to Jesus.

"**What do you want me to do for you?**" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you."

Immediately he received his sight and **followed** Jesus along the road.

Mark 10:46-52

This version is more personal

[Healing/Salvation] Blind (4)

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and **begged** Jesus to **touch** him.

He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. **The use of spit mimicked the traditional approach.**

When he had **spit** on the man's eyes and **put his hands on him**, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

Once more Jesus **put his hands on the man's eyes**. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. **We need more than the traditional approach.**

Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."

Mark 8:22-26

Why was a two-step miracle needed?

The mystery of God

is not some kind of theorem to be proved;

it is rather,

an experience to be lived.

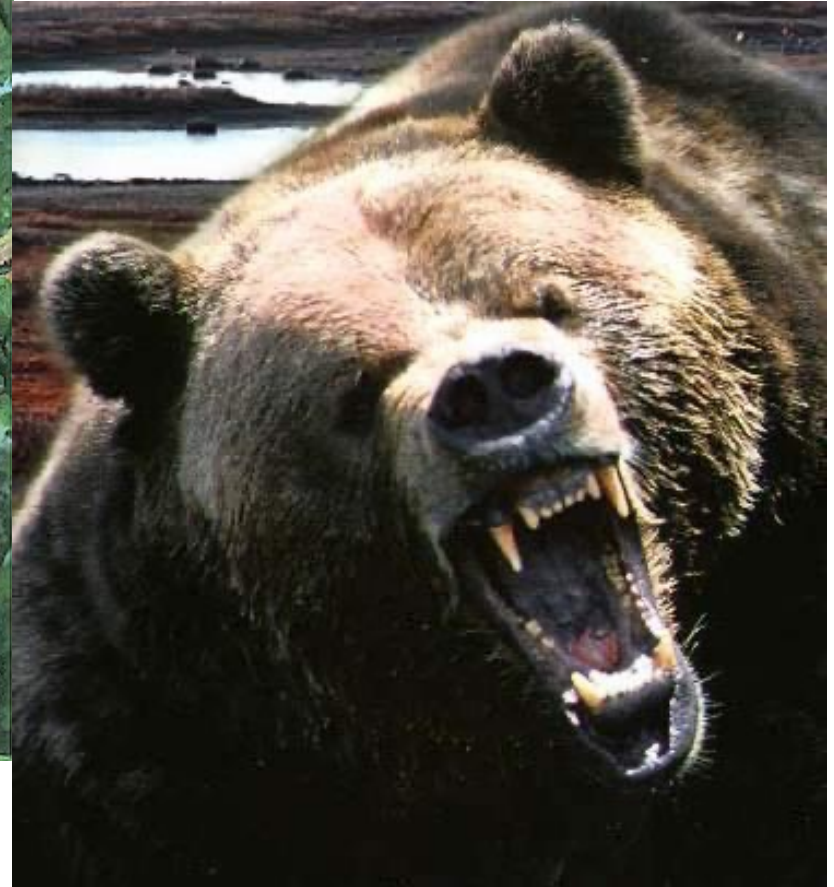
Dermot Lane

Encounters of note

7

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Part of the encounter may be humorous, but it may get worse!



Mama's the one to watch out for!

The Old Testament is all about encounters with
God

The New Testament is all about encounters with
Christ

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

An encounter with Christ is an encounter with God

The Bible records encounters between Christ and others

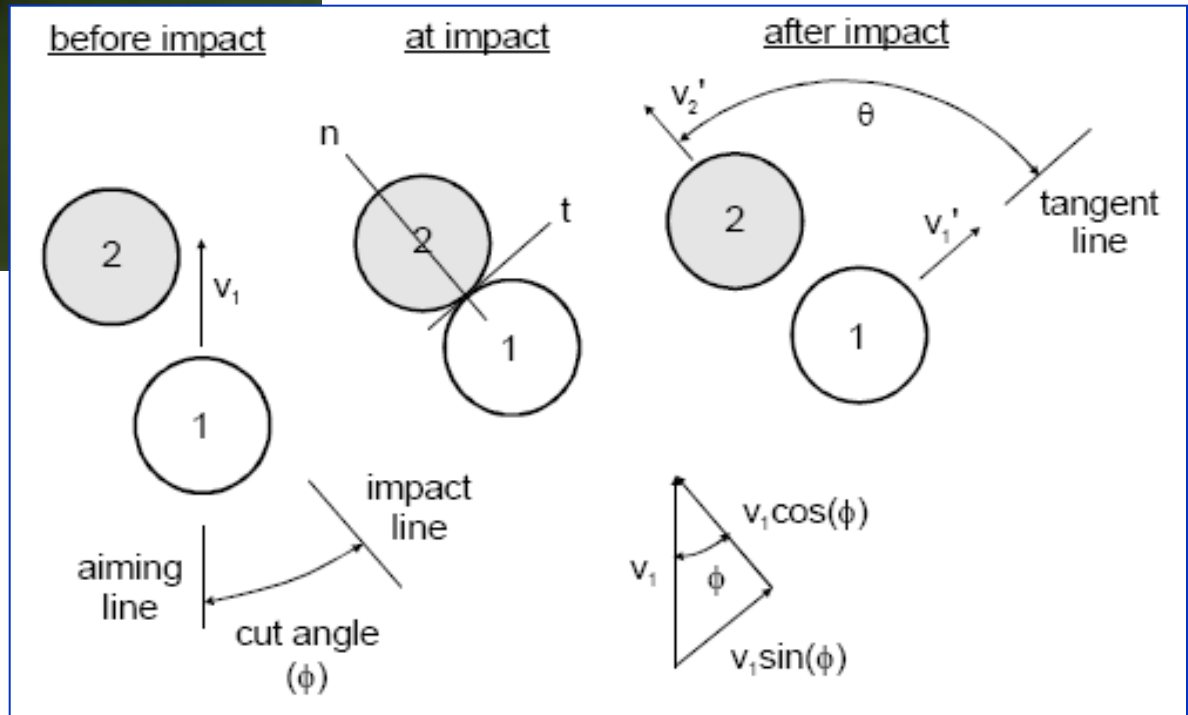
- Introduction
- **The Encounter Image**
- Encounters with God
- Encounters with Christ
- Encounters with others
- Summary

Image of the Encounter



**Study the encounter:
frame by frame.**

Analysis



The balls are all in motion; they are moving targets

- **Introduction**
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- **Summary**

Encounter with God Example – Noah (1)

Think about the seemingly absurd warning to Noah...

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens – and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent **rain** on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground --

Genesis 2:4-6

Rain was something new.

Encounter with God Example – Noah (2)

Noah could not imagine the power of the rising waters.

So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out...

I am going to bring **floodwaters** on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.

But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.

Genesis 6:13-18

But Noah was obedient because he had faith.

Encounter with God Example – Noah (1)

Think about the awesome beauty of the rainbow

And God said,

"This is the **sign** of the **covenant** I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a **covenant** for all generations to come:

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.

Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

Genesis 9:12-15

God promised no more global destructive flood.

Encounter with God Example – Noah (2)



- **Introduction**
- **The Encounter Image**
- **Encounters with God**
- **Encounters with Christ**
- **Encounters with others**
- **Summary**

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
- Relationships / Family / Kingdom
- Leadership / Authority
- Judgment
- Change / Conversion
- Worship
- Battle between Good and Evil
- Indirect

We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

[Healing/Salvation] Types (1)

The specific healings are of several types:

- **Blind**
- **Leprosy**
- **Crippled/paralytic**
- **Demon-possessed**
- **Issue of Blood**
- **Dead**

[Healing/Salvation] Types (2)

There are spiritual analogues to consider:

- **Blind** [cannot see God]
- **Leprosy** [defiled by sin]
- **Crippled/paralytic** [powerless to save]
- **Demon-possessed** [the evil within]
- **Issue of Blood** [dying]
- **Dead** [no eternal life]

He also heals our state of **Sin**

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (1)

7

What is the origin of suffering?

As he went along, he saw a man **blind from birth**.

His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, **who sinned**, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me.

Night is coming, when no one can work.

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 9:1-5

**Who is the light of the world
when Christ is not in the world?**

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (2)

Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some **mud** with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. **touch!**

"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). **No one (including Jesus) offered to lead him.**

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

He was used to finding his way around.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

John 9:6-9

The doubters refused to believe he was born blind

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (3)

"How then were your eyes opened?" they **demanded**.

He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes.

He told me to go to Siloam and wash.

So I went and washed, and then I could see."

He was blind at the time, how could he know?

"Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

John 9:10 -14

These were his neighbors (and friends?) ...

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (4)

7

Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.

Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight.

He left out the spit information.

"He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

Was making mud against the rules too?

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?"

So they were divided.

John 9:14-16

The Sabbath is more important than Healing to them.

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (5)

Finally they turned again to the blind man,
"What have you to say about him?
It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

Realization and Recognition!

John 9:17

Even the blind man could see who Jesus was.

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (6)

7

The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents.

"Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself."

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue...

John 9:18-23

The Pharisees need a victim... and they pick on the weak!

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (7)

7

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God, " they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "W Their view of a sinner: one who didn't follow their rules. thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered, "I have told you already Do we have this problem? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

John 9:24-30

The ex-blind man is not intimidated (he knows the truth)!

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (8)

Then they hurled **insults** at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses!

We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.

We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. **If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.**

Evidence: blindness!

To this they replied, "You were **steeped in sin at birth**; how dare you lecture us!"

He gives them a sermon!

And they threw him out.

John 9:31-34

He was thrown out for being healed by Christ.

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (9)

7

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Then the man said, "**Lord, I believe,**" and he **worshiped** him.

John 9:35-38

Jesus let this happen;

but he then he sought him out to comfort him.

He doesn't make the way easy, but makes us strong.

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth (10)

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that **the blind will see and those who see will become blind.**"

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we **blind** too?"

Jesus said, "If you were **blind**, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

John 9:35-41

Jesus relates this event to spiritual blindness.

[Healing/Salvation] Blind from birth summary 7

Jesus and the disciples see the blind man.

They discuss him as though he were a science experiment.

“What was the cause of his suffering?”

Jesus explains about sin and the true light.

Jesus heals the blind man.

The quest for “WHO and HOW” begins.

who was the blind man (was he really blind)?

who healed him?

how did he do it?

The healed man realizes that Jesus was a holy man.

The Pharisees continue the attack.

The parents were brought in to refute the man’s story.

They toss the ball back to the Pharisees, who go after the blind man.

The healed man is not intimidated, but is bold against them.

The Pharisees throw the man out of their “religious” group.

Jesus relates the event to the more important spiritual blindness

Jesus seeks the man out to accept him into the kingdom of God.

[Healing/Salvation] Blind man summary

These blind men were not easily intimidated.

- followed Jesus into his own home**
- yelled louder when the crowd told them to be quiet**
- defended themselves before the Pharisees**

You would think that they would not have such character!

These blind men knew their need better than anyone.

We need to have the same awareness of our sinful nature.

[Healing/Salvation] Blindness (1)

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.

And he stood up to read.

The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him.

Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim **freedom** for the prisoners and **recovery of sight for the blind**, to **release** the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:16-17

The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight, but has no vision.

Helen Keller

[Healing/Salvation] Blindness (2)

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down.

The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them,

"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:16-21

Think of how the people must have felt to hear this.

An awesome moment... Time briefly stood still

Is God nothing more than a jumper cable?

Start-up strength and nothing more?

Max Lucado

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Think about life as like a game of football!

Peanuts Cartoons

A football for Christmas

[Healing/Salvation] Leprosy (1)

When he came down... **large crowds** followed him.

A man with **leprosy** came and knelt before him (Luke 5:12 -- fell with his face to the ground) and said, **into the crowd**

"Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Jesus reached out his hand and **touched** the man.

"I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

God is willing to touch us as spiritual lepers

Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

Then Jesus said to him,

"See that you don't tell anyone.

But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

verify and validate (V&V)

Matthew 8:1-4

Even in the large crowd, Jesus touched the leper.

[Healing/Salvation] Leprosy - Ten (1)

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him.

They did not penetrate the crowd as the other one did

encountered



They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

And as they went, they were cleansed.

Luke 17:11-15

**They would not approach because of their condition.
These people were “untouchable”!**

[Healing/Salvation] Leprosy - Ten (2)

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

He **threw** himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him -- and he was a **Samaritan**.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed?"

Where are the other nine?

Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

Then he said to him,

"Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Luke 17:16-19

**“God’s people” took the miracle for granted,
as though they were owed it.**

[Healing/Salvation] Leprosy - Ten (3)

Did the leper think that Christ knew he was a Samaritan?

Think about what Jesus told the lepers to do:

Go to the priest to fulfill the sacred duty...

What was the Samaritan to do?

How could he have gone with the other nine?

He may have had no place to go.

Perhaps he realized that Christ was the only real priest.

Did he also heal him spiritually?

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed A (1)

Jesus stepped into a boat,
crossed over and came to **his own town**. **home**

Some men brought to him a **paralytic**, lying on a mat.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,
"Take heart, son; **your sins are forgiven**."

Jesus addressed the spiritual side first this time

At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves,
"This fellow is blaspheming!"

Matthew 9:1-3

Jesus healed his sinful condition, not his palsy (not yet).

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed A (2)

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said,

"Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?

Which is easier: to say,

'Your sins are forgiven,'

or to say,

'Get up and walk'?

The power over the physical and spiritual are intimately linked together

But **so that you may know** that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ."

Then he said to the paralytic,

"Get up, take your mat and **go home.**"

Matthew 9:4-6

Jesus held off so that He could teach them a lesson.

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed A (3)

And the man got up and **went home**.

When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they **praised God**, who had given such authority to men.

Matthew 9:7-8

They saw Jesus as just another prophet, like the man born blind did

Why didn't the man stay with Jesus?

The miracle amazed the crowd!

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed A (4)

The account in Mark adds a few things.

So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and **he preached the word** to them.

Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four...

Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the **paralytic**, "Son, your **sins** are forgiven."

People still associated illness with sin

Mark 2:1-5

Jesus was impressed by the efforts/faith of the **friends**.

Contrast to the man at the pool who had no one.

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed B (1)

Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades (KJV: porches).

Here a great number of disabled people used to lie
-- the **blind**, the **lame**, the **paralyzed**.

*For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and **troubled** the water:*

*whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was **made whole** of whatsoever disease he had.*

John 5:2-4

**Was this superstition or a miraculous place?
Jesus does not address this at all.**

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed B (2)

One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him,

"Do you want to get well?"

Obvious? Jesus wanted him to see the spiritual problem as well

"Sir," the invalid replied,

"I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred.

While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

John 5:5-7

Why did Jesus pick this man?

Was it because he had no one to help him?

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed B (3)

Then Jesus said to him,

"Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

At once the man was **cured**; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a **Sabbath**,

and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed,

"It is the Sabbath; the law **forbids** you to carry your mat."

But he replied,

"The man who made me well said to me,

'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

John 5:8-11

This event is very similar that of the man born blind.

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed B (4)

So they asked him,

"Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"

The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

Later Jesus found him **at the temple** and said to him,

"See, you are well again.

spiritual paralysis

Stop sinning or **something worse** may happen to you."

The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.

John 5:12-16

Jesus seeks this man out, too, after the encounter.

Death is not extinguishing the light.

It is putting out the lamp

because dawn has come.

Rabindranath Tagore

Encounters of note

Added note from last week

Peanuts Cartoon

Do you ever feel like you are not making any progress?

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Is an encounter with a cop intimidating?



How about an encounter with a pregnant woman?

Encounter with God Example – Babel (1)

Think about the sudden inability to communicate...

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.

As men moved eastward,
they found a plain in Shinar and settled there...

Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city,
with a tower that reaches to the heavens,
so that we may make a name for ourselves
and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 11:1-6

These people wanted to encounter God physically.

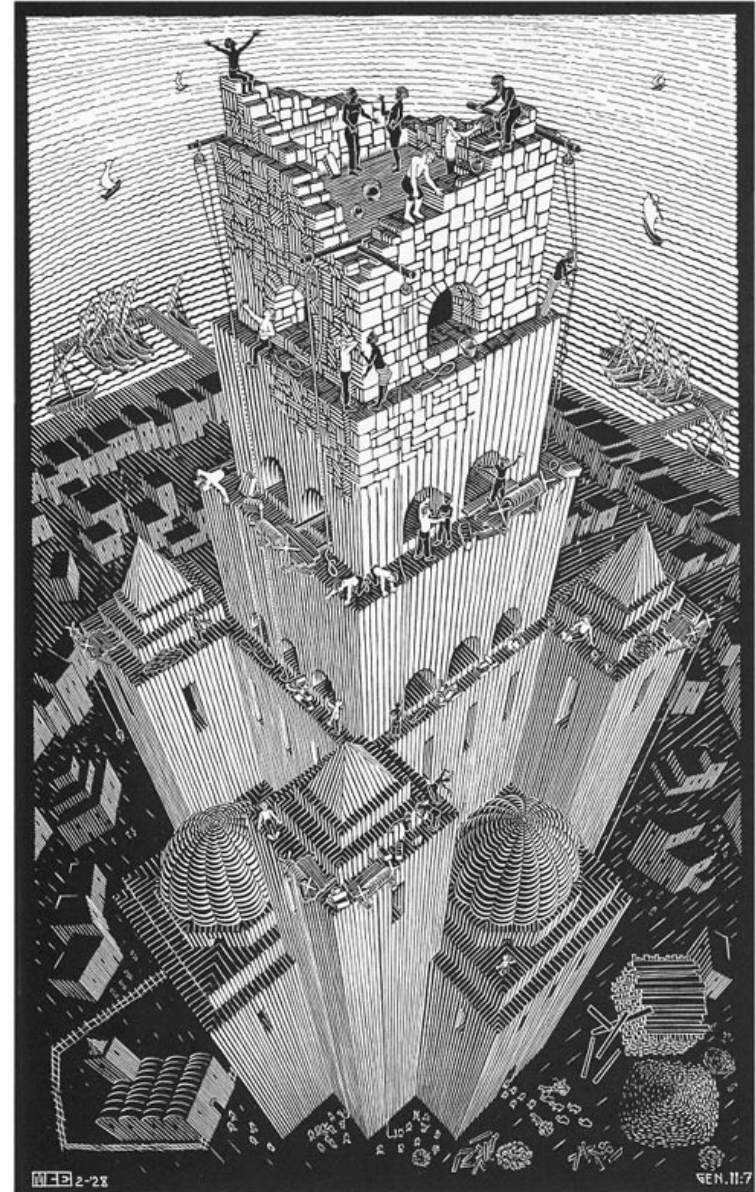
Encounter with God Example – Babel (2)

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Genesis 11:5-7



Encounter with God Example – Babel (3)

So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth,
and they stopped building the city.

That is why it was called Babel –
because there
the LORD **confused** the language of the whole world.

From there the LORD **scattered** them
over the face of the whole earth.

Genesis 11:5-9

Sometimes the encounter happens from within.

Encounter with God Example – Fire for Altar (1)⁷

The Israelites witnessed God miraculously light the altar

Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting.

When they came out, they blessed the people;

and the **glory** of the LORD appeared to all the people.

Fire came out from the presence of the LORD

and consumed the burnt offering

and the fat portions on the altar.

And when all the people saw it,

they shouted for joy and fell facedown.

Leviticus 9:23-24

**God would not keep the fire going eternally –
man had to keep it up.**

- **Introduction**
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Outline of the Encounters

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
- Relationships / Family / Kingdom
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- Worship
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We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

[Healing/Salvation] Types (2)

There are spiritual analogues to consider:

- Blind [cannot see God]
- Leprosy [defiled by sin]
- Crippled/paralytic [powerless to save]
- Demon-possessed [the evil within]
- Issue of Blood [dying]
- Dead [no eternal life]

He also heals our state of Sin

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed C (1)

9

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,
and a woman was there
who had been crippled by a **spirit** for eighteen years.

She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.

When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her,
"Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."

Then **he put his hands on her**,
and **immediately** she straightened up and praised God.

Luke 13:13-17

What is "religion" really for?

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed C (2)

Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath,

the synagogue ruler said **to the people**,

Not to Jesus...

"There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

The Lord answered him,

"You **hypocrites!**

Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?

Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom **Satan** has kept **bound** for eighteen **long** years, be **set free** on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

It is so appropriate to heal on God's day of rest

Luke 13:14-16

Jesus claims that religion is about caring for people!

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed C (3)

When he said this,

all his opponents were **humiliated**,

The Jewish leaders could see that they were losing control

but the people were **delighted**

with all the wonderful things he was doing.

Luke 13:17

The woman had been bound by her infirmity 18 years.

But the people of God had been bound by the wrong interpretation of God's will for hundreds of years.

And some still are!

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed D (1)

Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there.

Some of them were **looking for a reason to accuse Jesus**, so **they watched him closely** to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath.

Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand,

"Stand up in front of everyone."

Then Jesus asked them,

"Which is lawful on the Sabbath:

to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?"

But they remained silent.

Jesus makes sure everyone focuses in

Mark 3:1-3

Another encounter on the Sabbath!

[Healing/Salvation] Crippled/Paralyzed D (2)

He looked around at them in **anger** and,
deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts,
said to the man,
"Stretch out your hand."

He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

The Jewish leaders break down

Then the Pharisees went out and began to **plot**
with the Herodians how they might **kill** Jesus.

Mark 3:4-6

The Pharisees team with their rivals to kill the competition.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons A (1)

Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out,

"What do you want with **us**, Jesus of Nazareth?

Have you come to destroy **us**?

I know who you are -- the Holy One of God!"

"Be quiet!" said Jesus **sternly**.

"Come out of him!"

The evil spirit shook the man **violently** and came out of him with a **shriek**.

Mark 1:23-26

The evil spirit makes the first move.

Is he mocking Jesus?

[Healing/Salvation] Demons A (2)

The people were all so **amazed** that they asked each other,
"What is this?
A **new** teaching -- and with **authority**!
He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."

News about him spread quickly over the whole region of
Galilee.

Mark 1:27-28

The people realized that it took spiritual authority to cast out
demons, and the news about Him spread.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons B (1)

Because of the **crowd**

he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him,
to keep the people from crowding him.

For he had healed many,

so that those with diseases

were **pushing forward to touch him.**

Mark 3:9-10

The encounters grew in frequency; people losing control --
Christ had to limit it somewhat.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons B (2)

Whenever the evil spirits saw him,
they fell down before him and cried out,

"You are the Son of God."

But he gave them **strict orders** not to tell who he was.

Mark 3:11-12

Perhaps demons were compelled to confess the Christ.
Christ did not want to be announced by them.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons C (1)

They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes,
which is across the lake from Galilee.

When Jesus stepped ashore,

he was met by a **demon-possessed** man from the town.

For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the **top of his voice**,

"What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?
I beg you, don't torture me!"

Luke 8:26-28

Matthew's account mentions two men.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons C (2)

For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man.

Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"**Legion**," he replied,

Jesus encounters many at once (crowd)

because many demons had gone into him.

And they **begged** him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

Luke 8:29-31

Even the demons looked for grace...

[Healing/Salvation] Demons C (3)

A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside.

The demons **begged** Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission.

When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.

Luke 8:32-34

Why did the demons want to enter the pigs?

Were they trying to escape so they could enter other men?

Christ would have thwarted that plan.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons C (4)

When they came to Jesus,
they found the man from whom the demons had gone out,
sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind;
and they were afraid.

Those who had seen it told the people
how the demon-possessed man had been cured.

Luke 8:35-36

The demon-possessed man was now under control.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons C (5)

Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were **overcome with fear**.

So he got into the boat and left.

The man from whom the demons had gone out **begged** to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,

"Return **home** and tell how much God has done for you."

So the man went away and **told all over town** how much Jesus had done for him.

Jesus needed help here after being rejected

Luke 8:37-39

In spite of the great miracle, the people did not want Him.
Christ wants this man to talk about the encounter.

**Even the beloved Dilbert,
symbol of rebellion to inane bureaucracy,
has become co-opted.**

**He is now a mass-market phenomenon,
used to sell more advertising
and generate more cubicles.**

Michael Gelb

Is Jesus' revolution against legalism in the same danger?

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Superman should not fear any encounter...



But he should make sure that the gate is not locked!

Return to our previous discussions of Moses

- Pre-Exodus 32: Moses goes to the mountain to be with God
(40 days and nights)
- Exodus 32: The people get tired of waiting and make an idol
Moses in anger breaks the tablets
He punishes the people of Israel
God “decides” to blot them out of His book
- Exodus 33: God states that **He will not go with them**
Moses encounters God in the tent of meeting
Moses pleads for God’s continual presence
God changes His mind
Moses asks to see God’s glory
- Exodus 34: Moses returns to the mountain for more tablets
Discussion of the radiance of Moses’ face

Moses knew that they can not live without the presence of God.

- **Introduction**
- **The Encounter Image**
- **Encounters with God**
- **Encounters with Christ**
- **Encounters with others**
- **Summary**

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
- Relationships / Family / Kingdom
- Leadership / Authority
- Judgment
- Change / Conversion
- Worship
- Battle between Good and Evil
- Indirect

We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

[Healing/Salvation] Types (2)

There are spiritual analogues to consider:

- Blind [cannot see God]
- Leprosy [defiled by sin]
- Crippled/paralytic [powerless to save]
- Demon-possessed [the evil within]
- Issue of Blood [dying]
- Dead [no eternal life]

He also heals our state of Sin

[Healing/Salvation] Demons D (1)

The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a **large crowd** met him.

A man in the crowd called out,

"Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my **only** child. A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him.

I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."

"O unbelieving and **perverse** generation," Jesus replied,

"how long shall I stay with you and **put up** with you?

Bring your son here."

Was Jesus really so tired of them?

Luke 9:37-43

It is some kind of lesson that the disciples couldn't do it.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons D (2)

Even while the boy was coming,
the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion.

But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit,
healed the boy
and gave him back to his father.

And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

Luke 9:37-43a

This demon reacted violently to the upcoming encounter.

Jesus can give us all calm in our turbulent lives.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons/Blind

Jesus had just connected Himself with His Father, God.

At these words the Jews were again **divided**.

Many of them said,

“He is demon-possessed and **raving mad**.

Why listen to him?”

But others said,

Sayings, not doings?

“These are not the sayings of a man
possessed by a demon.

Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

John 10:19-21

This shows the correspondence between
physical and spiritual healing.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons/Purpose (1)

There were many encounters with demons.

When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

Moreover, demons came out of **many** people, shouting, "**You are the Son of God!**"

But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because **they knew** he was the Christ.

Luke 4:40-41

He wanted to reveal Himself
in His own time and in his own way.

[Healing/Salvation] Demons/Purpose (1)

The people wanted Him to stay in their community.

At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place.

The people were looking for him

and when they came to where he was,

they tried to keep him from leaving them.

But he said,

"I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God

to the other towns also,

because that is why I was sent."

And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:42-44

His purpose was to preach the Good News everywhere.

[Healing/Salvation] Peter's mother-in-law

Notice that Jesus took her hand and helped her.

Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever,
and they told Jesus about her.

So he went to her, **took her hand** and helped her up.

The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

Mark 1:30-31

Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever,
and they asked Jesus to help her.

So he bent over her and **rebuked** the fever, and it left her.

She got up at once and began to wait on them.

Luke 4:38-39

Jesus 'rebuked' the fever as though it were a demon.

[Healing/Salvation] Issue of Blood (Preamble) ¹⁰

And when the men of the place recognized Jesus,
they sent word to all the surrounding country.

People brought all their sick to him
and **begged** him to let the sick
just **touch the edge of his cloak**,

and **all who touched him were healed**.

Matthew 14:35-36

The idea of just touching Jesus' clothes for healing was
evidently common.

[Healing/Salvation] Issue of Blood (1)

10

Jairus' daughter – Woman with an issue of blood

This is really looking at one miracle encounter wrapped inside another.

The miracle of raising Jairus' daughter from the dead is more impressive from one standpoint...

But the healing of the woman with the issue of blood, as an interruption, emerges as the real story.

Both encounters are touching stories of faith.

[Healing/Salvation] Issue of Blood (2)

Bookend: Introduction to Jairus

Now when Jesus returned,
a **crowd** welcomed him,
for they were all expecting him.

Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue,
came and **fell at Jesus' feet**,
pleading with him to come to his house
because his **only** daughter,
a girl of about twelve,
was dying.

Luke 8:40-42a

Note the anguish of Jairus.

[Healing/Salvation] Issue of Blood (3)

Interruption: Introduction to the woman

As Jesus was on his way,
the **crowds** almost crushed him.

And a woman was there

Imagine Jairus: Please don't stop!

who had been subject to **bleeding for twelve years**,
but no one could heal her.

She was considered unclean!

She came up **behind** him
and touched the **edge** of his cloak,
and **immediately** her bleeding stopped.

Luke 8:42b-44

This woman, in her weakness, pushed through the crush.

[Healing/Salvation] Issue of Blood (4)

Jesus meant to have a relationship with all he healed.

"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet.

Luke 8:45-46

Power to create the universe, sensitivity to sense a touch.

[Healing/Salvation] Issue of Blood (5)

10

Jesus lets her tell her story.

In the presence of all the people,
she told why she had **touch**ed him
and how she had been **instan**tly healed.

Then he said to her,

Imagine Jairus: Please hurry!

"Daughter, your **faith** has healed you.

Go in peace."

Luke 8:47-48

Jesus then closed the encounter with encouragement.

[Healing/Salvation] Issue of Blood (6)

10

Return to Jairus

While Jesus was still speaking,
someone came from the house of Jairus,
the synagogue ruler.

"Your daughter is dead," he said.

"Don't bother the teacher any more."

Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus,

"Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

Luke 8:49-50

There was only faith as long as the patient was living.

[Healing/Salvation] Issue of Blood (7)

10

At the house of Jairus

When he arrived at the house of Jairus,
he did not let anyone go in with him
except Peter, John and James,
and the child's father and mother.

Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning
for her.

"Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."
Luke 8:51-53

Jesus uses the word "asleep" figuratively.

[Healing/Salvation] Issue of Blood (8)

The other Bookend: Healing Jairus' daughter.

They **laughed** at him, **knowing** that she was dead.

But he took her by the hand and said,

"My child, get up!"

The spirit had left this body!

Her spirit **returned**, and **at once** she stood up.

Then Jesus told them to give her something to **eat**.

Her parents were astonished, but

he **ordered** them **not to tell** anyone what had happened.

Luke 8:49-50

He gave her life back, but didn't fill her with strength.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Widow's Son (1) 10

Jesus encounters a funeral procession.

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him.

As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out – the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.

And a large crowd from the town was with her.

Luke 7:11-12

Two large crowds encountered each other.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Widow's Son (2) 10

Jesus had great compassion for this family.

When the Lord saw her,
his heart went out to her and he said,
"Don't cry."

Then he went up and touched the coffin,
and those carrying it stood still.

He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"

The dead man sat up and **began to talk**,
and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Probably by the hand

Luke 7:13-15

What did the young man have to say?

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Widow's Son (3) 10

The people were amazed and praised God.

They were all filled with awe and praised God.

"A great prophet has appeared among us," they said.

"God has come to help his people."

This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea
and the surrounding country.

Luke 7:16-17

They saw Jesus as a prophet.
He wants to grow that into an understanding
that He is the Son of God

**Tact is rubbing out another's mistake
instead of rubbing it in.**

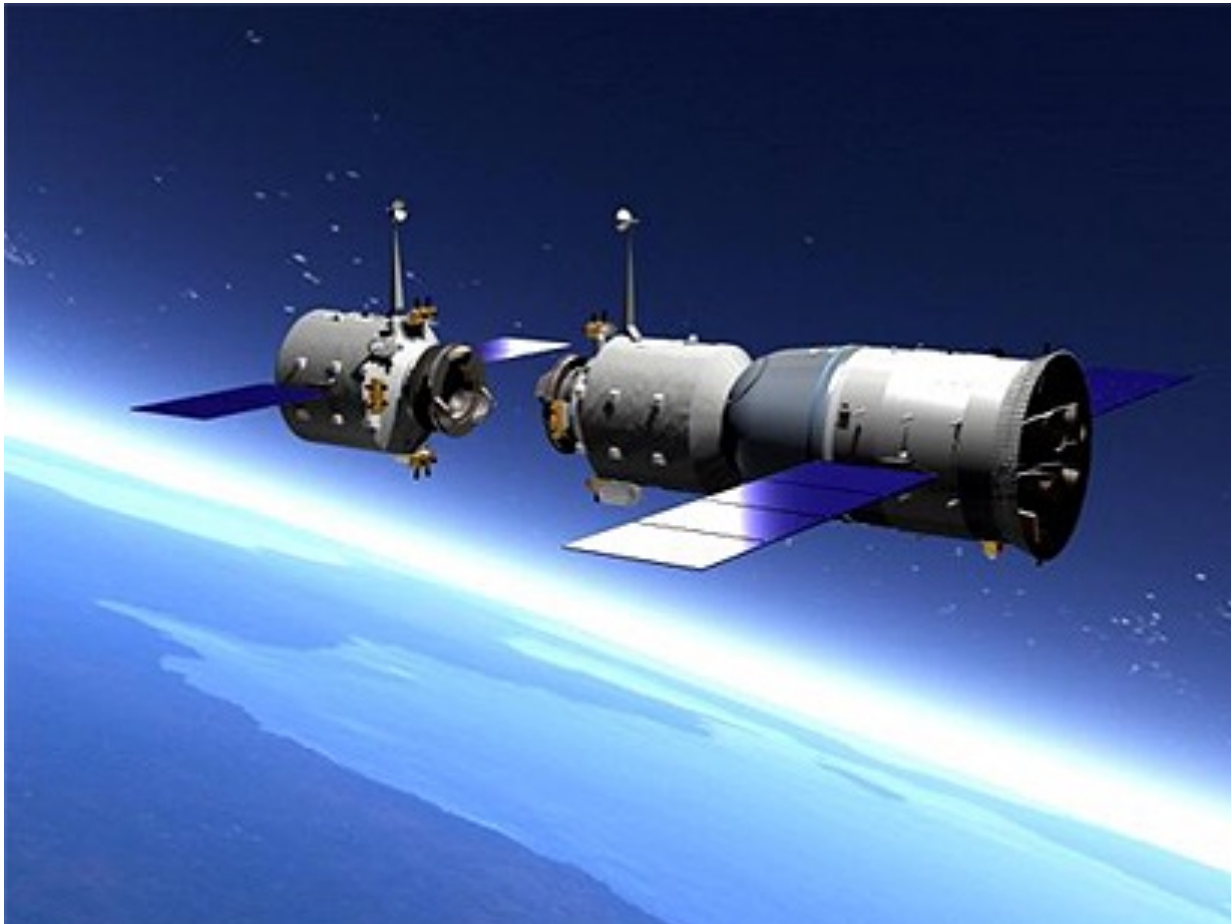
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Encounters of note

10

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Docking spacecraft in orbit is very difficult.



We must be just as cautious sometimes in our encounters.

Encounter with God Example – Covenant (1) 10

God made a great covenant with Abraham.

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:
"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless..."

Then the word of the LORD came to him... "Look up at the heavens and count the stars -- if indeed you can count them."

Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

**Abram believed the LORD,
and he credited it to him as righteousness.**

Genesis 15:1-6

We have to be credited, because we cannot be righteous.

Encounter with God Example – Covenant (2) 10

God promised many descendants, and a new land.

He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

... the LORD had Abram bring animals to sacrifice, and he cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other...

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a **smoking firepot with a blazing torch** appeared and passed between the pieces.

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land..."

God was represented by the blazing torch floating by...

Encounter with God Example – Sodom (1)

11

God has an encounter with Sodom and Gomorrah

Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ...

Abraham bargained with God for ten people

Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."

When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.

Genesis 18-19

Encounter with God Example – Sodom (2)

11

God also encounters Lot, his wife, and his daughters.

As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

Then the LORD **rained** down **burning sulfur** on Sodom and Gomorrah -- from the LORD out of the heavens.

But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Early the next morning Abraham...looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

Gen 19

Think of what Abraham thought as he saw the destruction.

Encounter with God Example – Jacob’s Ladder (1)

Jacob has an amazing encounter with God

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran.

When he reached a certain place,

he stopped for the night because the sun had set.

Taking one of the stones there,

he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

He had a dream in which he saw

a **stairway** resting on the earth,

with its top reaching to heaven,

and the angels of God

were ascending and descending on it.

Genesis 28:10-13

Encounter with God Example – Jacob's Ladder (2)

Imagine a scene like this in the midst of nowhere!



Artwork by Dr. Jürgen Heumann

Encounter with God Example – Jacob's Ladder (3)

God passes on the promise He made to Abraham

There above it stood the LORD, and he said:

"I am the LORD,

the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.

I will give you and your descendants

the land on which you are lying...

All peoples on earth will be blessed

through you and your offspring.

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go,

and I will bring you back to this land.

I will not leave you

until I have done what I have promised you."

Genesis 28:14-16

Encounter with God Example – Jacob’s Ladder (4)

Jacob is truly in awe of this encounter.

When Jacob awoke from his sleep,
he thought,

"Surely the LORD is **in this place**,
and I was not aware of it."

He is everywhere!

He was afraid and said,

"How awesome is this place!

This is none other than the **house of God**;

this is the **gate of heaven**."

Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob truly felt the presence of God in this place.

Encounter with God Example – Sodom (1)

12

God has an encounter with Sodom and Gomorrah

Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ...

Abraham bargained with God for ten people

Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."

When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.

Genesis 18-19

Encounter with God Example – Sodom (2)

12

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But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Early the next morning Abraham...looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

Gen 19

Think of what Abraham thought as he saw the destruction.

Encounter with God Example – Jacob wrestling (1)

Jacob has an encounter with God on his return

After he had sent them [his family] across the stream,
he sent over all his possessions.

So Jacob was left alone,

and a man **wrestled** with him till daybreak.

When the man saw that he could not overpower him,
he touched the socket of Jacob's hip

so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.

Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

Genesis 32:22-26

Jacob did not realize this encounter was with God.

Encounter with God Example – Jacob wrestling (2)

The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

the name was very important

Then the man said,

"Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because **you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.**"

Jacob said, "Please tell me **your** name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask **my** name?"

Then he **blessed** him there.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying,

"It is because I saw God **face to face**,
and yet my life was spared."

Genesis 32:27-30

Jacob was blessed for his persistence.

Encounter with God Example – Wall of Water (1)¹⁵

The Israelites witnessed God divide the Red Sea

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up,
and there were the Egyptians, marching after them.
They were terrified and cried out to the LORD.

The Israelites felt trapped

Moses answered the people,
"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see
the deliverance the LORD will bring you today.
The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Exodus 14:10-14

We overlooked this when we discussed the pillar of fire.

Encounter with God Example – Wall of Water (2)

Then the LORD said to Moses,

"Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land.

The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

Exodus 14:15-17

Encounter with God Example – Wall of Water (3)



Encounter with God Example – Wall of Water (4)¹⁵

The Egyptians pursued them,
and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and
horsemen
followed them into the sea.
Then the LORD said to Moses,
"Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the
waters may flow back over the Egyptians
and their chariots and horsemen..."
The Egyptians were fleeing toward it,
and the LORD swept them into the sea...
Not one of them survived.

Encounter with God Example – Wall of Water (5) ¹⁵⁷

The Israelites witnessed God destroy the Egyptians.

That day the LORD saved Israel
from the hands of the Egyptians,
and Israel saw the Egyptians
lying dead on the shore.

And when the Israelites saw the great power
the LORD displayed against the Egyptians,
the people feared the LORD
and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Exodus 14:30-31

They needed a constant supply of such encounters.

Encounter with God Example – Walls of Jericho (1)

The Israelites witnessed God destroy the Walls of Jericho

Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites...

Then the LORD said to Joshua...

March around the city once with all the armed men.

Do this for six days.

Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark.

On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets.

When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, **the wall collapsed**;

so every man charged straight in, and they took the city.

Joshua 6:1-20

Encounter with God Example – Walls of Jericho (2)



The Israelites played a small part in the drama.

Encounter with God Example – Walls of Jericho (3)

Peanuts Cartoon

People knock down our walls sometimes.

Encounter with God Example – The budding staff¹⁹ (1)

God shows His power far beyond our expectations.

After the rebellion of Koreh, the people questioned the priestly authority of Aaron.

God promised to make the staff of the tribe chosen for the priesthood to **sprout**.

The next day Moses... saw that Aaron's staff,
which represented the house of Levi,
had not only **sprouted**
but had **budded**,
blossomed
and **produced almonds**.

Numbers 17:8

God's miracle went three levels further than required.

Encounter with God Example – Chariot of Fire (20)

Elisha was following Elijah to be his successor.

Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a **double portion** of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours--otherwise not."

2 Kings 2:7-10

Encounter with God Example – Chariot of Fire (20)

Elijah was taken directly to meet God

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a **chariot of fire** and **horses of fire** appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a **whirlwind**.

Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!"

And Elisha saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart.

2 Kings 2:11-12

We see how strongly the encounter affected Elisha

Encounter with God Example – Chariot of Fire (3)

Elijah was taken directly to meet God

He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak... and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over. The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were **watching**, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went... and bowed to the ground before him.

2 Kings 2:13-15

The fifty prophets saw the result of the transfer of power.

Encounter with God Example – Fire on Fifties (1)

Ahaziah was the king (leader?) of Israel.

Now Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria and injured himself.

So he sent messengers, saying to them,
"Go and consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron,
to see if I will recover from this injury."

2 Kings 1:2

Ahaziah did not ask God for help.

Encounter with God Example – Fire on Fifties (2)

Elijah intercepted the king's messengers.

But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite,
"Go up and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria
and ask them,
'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are
going off to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?'
Therefore this is what the LORD says:
'You will not leave the bed you are lying on.
You will certainly die!'"

So Elijah went.

2 Kings 1:3-4

Elijah was sent to tell the bad news: Ahaziah would die.

Encounter with God Example – Fire on Fifties (3)

Ahaziah realized that the messenger was Elijah.

The king asked them,

"What kind of man was it who came to meet you and told you this?"

They replied,

"He was a man with a garment of hair and with a leather belt around his waist."

The king said, "That was Elijah the Tishbite."

2 Kings 1:7-8

Elijah had a distinctive manner and dress.

Encounter with God Example – Fire on Fifties (4)

Elijah was approached groups of fifty soldiers.

Then he sent to Elijah a captain with his company of fifty men.

The captain went up to Elijah... and said to him,

"Man of God, the king says, '**Come down!**'"

Elijah answered the captain,

"If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!"

Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men.

At this the king sent... another captain with his fifty men.

The captain said... "Man of God... '**Come down at once!**'"

2 Kings 1:9-12

This second group was also consumed by fire.

Encounter with God Example – Fire on Fifties (3)

The third captain tries a different approach.

So the king sent a third captain with his fifty men.

This third captain went up and fell on his knees before Elijah.

"Man of God," he begged,

"please have respect for my life

and the lives of these fifty men, your servants! ...

The angel of the LORD said to Elijah,

"Go down with him; do not be afraid of him."

So Elijah got up and went down with him to the king.

2 Kings 1:9-12

This man saved himself and his men by his humility.

The king, however, died as God had promised.

Encounter with God Example – Altar Contest (1)²²

Ahab was the king (leader?) of Israel.

So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel
and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

Elijah went before the people and said,
"How long will you waver between two opinions?
If the LORD is God, follow him;
but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing.

Then Elijah said to them,
"I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left,
but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets.

1 Kings 18:20-22

Elijah appears to have the odds against him.

Encounter with God Example – Altar Contest (2)²²

Elijah presents the challenge.

Get two bulls for us.

Let them choose one for themselves,
and let them cut it into pieces

and put it on the wood but not set fire to it.

I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood
but not set fire to it.

Then you call on the name of your god,
and I will call on the name of the LORD.

The god who answers by fire -- he is God."

Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

1 Kings 18:23-25

God would show His power by lighting the altar.

Encounter with God Example – Altar Contest (3)²²

The prophets of Baal go first.

The prophets of Baal prepared a bull but did not light the fire. They called on the name of Baal from morning till noon.

But there was no response; no one answered.

Then they danced around the altar they had made.

At noon Elijah began to taunt them, as though their god was too busy or asleep.

They shouted louder and slashed themselves until bloody.

They continued their **frantic** prophesying until evening.

But there was no response, no one answered,
no one paid attention.

1 Kings 18:25-29

Their “god” could not deliver.

Encounter with God Example – Altar Contest (4)²

The prophets of Baal go first.

Then Elijah called the people to him.

He repaired the altar, which was in ruins from non-use.

He took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel.

He dug a trench around the altar.

He arranged the wood, and prepared the bull on the altar.

He soaked the entire altar, offering and all, with water.

Elijah prayed to God to show that He was God in Israel.

He also prayed that God turned the people's hearts back.

1 Kings 18:30-40

The second mission was to turn the people's hearts.

Encounter with God Example – Altar Contest (5)²²

God answers Elijah and demonstrates His power.

Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up
the sacrifice,
the wood,
the stones
and the soil,
and also licked up the water in the trench.

When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried,
"The LORD -- he is God! The LORD -- he is God!"

1 Kings 18:38-40

The prophets of Baal were then all killed.

Encounter with God Example – Naaman (1) 23

Naaman was a foreigner from Syria.

So Naaman... stopped at the door of Elisha's house.

Elisha sent a messenger to say to him,

"Go, **wash yourself seven times in the Jordan**,
and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

But Naaman **went away angry** and said,

"I thought that he would surely come out to me
and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God,
wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.

Are not... the rivers of Damascus,

better than any of the waters of Israel?

Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?"

2 Kings 5:9-12

Naaman almost let his preconception and pride stop him.

Encounter with God Example – Naaman (2) 23

A great servant cares for his master.

Naaman's servants went to him and said,
"My **father**, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing,
would you not have done it? How much more, then,
when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'"

So he went down and dipped... in the Jordan seven times,
as the man of God had told him,
and his flesh was restored and became clean...

Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God.

He stood before him and said,

"**Now I know** that there is no God in all the world
except in Israel..."

2 Kings 5:13-15

Naaman recognizes the True God.

Encounter with God Example – Dry Bones (1)²⁴

Israel had gotten off of the right track.

The hand of the LORD was upon me,
and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD
and set me in the middle of a valley;
it was full of bones.

He led me back and forth among them,
and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley,
bones that were **very dry**.

He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

Ezekiel 37:1-3

God led Ezekiel to an old battlefield.

Encounter with God Example – Dry Bones (2)²⁴

Ezekiel prophesies to the dead.

Then he said to me,

"Prophecy to these bones and say to them,
'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones:

I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.

I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you
and cover you with skin;

I will put breath in you, and you will come to life.

Then you will know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 37:4-6

The object is to make Israel know the Lord.

Encounter with God Example – Dry Bones (3)²⁴

Imagine Ezekiel's amazement.

Could any other prophet have been more astonished?

So I prophesied as I was commanded.

And as I was prophesying, there was a noise,
a rattling sound, and the bones came together,
bone to bone.

I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them
and skin covered them,
but there was no breath in them...

So I prophesied as he commanded me,
and breath entered them;
they came to life and stood up on their feet -- **a vast army.**

Ezekiel 37:7-11

There was not just one body to raise, but hordes.

Encounter with God Example – Dry Bones (4)²⁴

God explains the symbolism.

Then he said to me: "Son of man,
these bones are the whole house of Israel.
They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone;
we are cut off...'

'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

O my people, I am going to **open your graves**
and **bring you up from them**;

I will bring you back to the land of Israel...

I will put my Spirit in you and you will live,
and I will settle you in your own land.

Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken..."

Ezekiel 37:12-14

God is having to raise the nation from the dead.

Encounter with God Example – Writing on Wall (25)

The Jews had been in Babylonian captivity.

King Belshazzar gave a great banquet and served wine. He had the gold and silver goblets from Jerusalem brought in. As they drank, they praised their false gods.

Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace.

The king watched the hand as it wrote.

His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way.

Daniel 5:1-6

The king (Nebuchadnezzar's son) was scared to death.

Encounter with God Example – Writing on Wall (2)

The king is desperate to find out what the message is.

The king offered great riches and authority for an interpretation. But, none of the king's wise men could not interpret the writing. King Belshazzar became even more terrified.

The queen told the king to call on Daniel,
who had been able to interpret dreams.

Daniel was brought into the banquet hall and offered riches.

Daniel refused the riches, but agreed to interpret the writing.

Daniel prefaced this by telling the story of Nebuchadnezzar's **encounter** with God (insanity for a while) to humble him.

Daniel 5:7-34

The king's father had realized the True God.

Encounter with God Example – Writing on Wall (23)

The message was only four words of judgment.

"This is the inscription that was written:

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN

"This is what these words mean:

Mene : God has numbered the days of your reign
and brought it to an end.

repeated

Tekel : You have been weighed on the scales
and found wanting.

Peres : Your kingdom is divided
and given to the Medes and Persians."

That very night the king of the Babylonians was slain.

Daniel 5:7-30

The fulfillment was almost immediate.

- **Introduction**
- **The Encounter Image**
- **Encounters with God**
- **Encounters with Christ**
- **Encounters with others**
- **Summary**

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
- Relationships / Family / Kingdom
- Leadership / Authority
- Judgment
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We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

[Healing/Salvation] Types (2)

There are spiritual analogues to consider:

- Blind [cannot see God]
- Leprosy [defiled by sin]
- Crippled/paralytic [powerless to save]
- Demon-possessed [the evil within]
- Issue of Blood [dying]
- Dead [no eternal life]

He also heals our state of Sin

[Healing/Salvation] Demon/Devil

Is having a demon different from being a devil?

Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve?
Yet one of you is a **devil!**"

John 6:70

As soon as Judas took the bread,
Satan entered into him.

He did not cast this one out

John 13:27

Judas allowed Satan to enter into his heart.

[Healing/Salvation] Near Death – servant (1) 10

The centurion would not have been a Jew.

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.

"Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."

Jesus said to him, "I will **go** and heal him."

The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But **just say the word**, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Matthew 8:5-9

The centurion seemed to understand Jesus' true power.

[Healing/Salvation] Near Death – servant (1A) ¹⁰

Characteristics of the centurion:

- He was a foreigner
- He had compassion on a servant (this was not a member of the family)
- He had an understanding of true power and authority, and realized that Christ had it
- He was sensitive to Christ's mission (he did not want to interrupt him or take any of his time)

No wonder Jesus highlighted this man's faith!

[Healing/Salvation] Near Death – servant (2) 10

When Jesus heard this, he was **astonished** and said to those following him,

Israel: God's chosen people

"I tell you the truth, **I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.** I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would."

And his servant was healed at that very hour.

Matthew 8:10-13

Jesus healed at a distance, and the centurion wanted.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (1)

Lazarus and his sisters had opened their home to Jesus.

Now a man named Lazarus was sick.

He was from Bethany,

the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick,

was the same one who poured **perfume** on the Lord
and wiped his feet with her hair.

So the sisters sent word to Jesus,

"Lord, the **one** you love is sick."

The only one?

John 11:1-3

Mary and Martha hoped for healing.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (2)

Lazarus and his sisters were very close to Jesus.

When he heard this, Jesus said,

"This sickness will not **end** in death.

Did not stay dead

No, it is for God's glory
so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

Jesus **loved** Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick,
he stayed where he was two more days.

John 11:4-6

Jesus wanted to show how much he loved them.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (3)

Then he said to his disciples,

"Let us go back to Judea."

"But Rabbi," they said,

"a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you,
and yet you are going back there?"

Jesus answered,

"Are there not twelve hours of daylight?

A man who **walks by day** will not stumble,
for he sees by this world's light.

It is when he **walks by night** that he stumbles,
for he has no light."

Do what is
right no matter
what!

John 11:7-10

Is Jesus teaching a lesson about being bold?

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (4)

After he had said this, he went on to tell them,

"Our friend Lazarus has fallen **asleep**;

but I am going there to wake him up."

His disciples replied,

"Lord, if he **sleeps**, he will get better."

Jesus had been speaking of his death,

but his disciples thought he meant **natural sleep**.

So then he told them plainly,

"Lazarus is dead,

and for your sake I am glad I was not there,

so that you may believe.

John 11:11-15

Jesus used sleep to indicate his death was temporary.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (5)

10

Jesus decides to go in spite of his enemies.

[Jesus] But let us go to him.

Then Thomas (called Didymus)
said to the rest of the disciples,

"Let us also go, **that we may die with him.**"

John 11:15-16

“Doubting” Thomas gives one of the greatest expressions
of love and commitment in the Bible

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (6)

Lazarus would have died even if Jesus had left on time.

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for **four days**.

Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

John 11:17-20

Martha is the “proactive” one.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (7)

Martha knows that Jesus could bring Lazarus back to life.

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus,

"if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha answered,

"I know he will rise again

in the resurrection at the last day."

John 11:21-24

She understands the eternal kingdom as well.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (8)

Jesus uses this time to teach about eternal life.

Jesus said to her,

"I am the resurrection and the life.

He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she told him,

"I believe that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who was to come into the world."

John 11:25-27

Martha makes the great confession of faith.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (9)

Martha goes and gets Mary privately.

And after she had said this,
she went back and called her sister Mary aside.

"The **Teacher** is here," she said,
"and is asking for you."

When Mary heard this,
she got up quickly and went to him.

Now Jesus had not yet entered the village,
but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

John 11:28-30

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (10)

10

The sympathetic crowd follows.

When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house,
comforting her, These Jews were trying to help
noticed how quickly she got up and went out,
they followed her,
supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was
and saw him, she fell at his feet and said,
"Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died."

John 11:31-32

Mary seems somewhat reproachful (Martha did, too!).

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (11)

10

Everybody cries at the loss of Lazarus.

When Jesus saw her **weeping**,
and the Jews who had come along with her
also **weeping**,
he was **deeply moved** in spirit and troubled.

"Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

Jesus wept.

We don't appreciate the depth of
the feelings of God/Christ

John 11:32-35

The shortest verse in the Bible is one of the most powerful.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (12)

The Jews take notice of His love.

Then the Jews said,

"See how he loved him!"

But some of them said,

"Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb.

Was there a limit to the power of Christ?

John 11:36-38a

But they can't understand why He let Lazarus die.

Is there a difference: power over sickness but not death?

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (13)

Lazarus was not just dead, but decomposing.

It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

"Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man,

"by this time there is a **bad odor**,
for he has been there **four days**."

True test of power

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed,
you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone.

John 11:38-41

The people finally agreed to open the tomb.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (14)

Jesus gave thanks first to God for the power.

Then Jesus looked up and said,

"Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice,

"Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out,

Lazarus was raised without a great flash or sound

his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

John 11:41-44a

Lazarus responds to the command of Jesus.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (15)

10

Jesus gained followers, but also the jealousy of the Jews.

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

- ...meeting of Sanhedrin (chief priests and Pharisees)

- ... they admit Jesus performs miracles

- ... they are afraid of Roman repression (official line)

 - but they were really afraid of losing power over the people

- ... Caiaphas (current high priest) trades Jesus for nation

- ... this was claimed as prophesy

So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

John 11:45-53

The encounter makes him a target marked for death.

[Healing/Salvation] Death – Lazarus (16)

10

Jesus knew that the Jews plotted to kill him.

Therefore

Jesus no longer moved about publicly
among the Jews.

Instead he **withdrew** to a region near the desert,
to a village called Ephraim,
where he stayed with his disciples.

John 11:54

Jesus began keeping a lower profile until the right time.

[Healing/Salvation] Apostles' Commission

10

Jesus sent them to preach about the kingdom.

As you go, preach this message:

'The kingdom of heaven is near.'

Heal the sick,
raise the dead,
cleanse those who have leprosy,
drive out demons.

Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:7-8

He gave them the power to heal the physical problems.

**It is curious that physical courage
should be so common in the world
and moral courage so rare.**

Mark Twain

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Have you ever been hit unexpectedly by a ball?



World-famous physicist demonstrates exclusion principle.

- **In the beginning**
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[Healing/Salvation] The Storm (1)

Sudden storms were common in the Sea of Galilee.

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.

Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. ...the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

But Jesus was sleeping.

The disciples encountered Jesus together in a very tense situation

The disciples went and woke him, saying,
"Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

Matthew 8:23-26, Luke 8:22-24

Jesus is calm, but the disciples are terrified.

[Healing/Salvation] The Storm (2)

Is our faith always with us?

He replied,

"You of little faith, why are you so afraid?"

"Where is your faith?"

Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves

(raging waters);

the storm subsided and it was completely calm.

The disciples did not realize who Jesus really was.

In fear and amazement they asked one another,

"Who is this? What kind of man is this?

Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Matthew 8:26-27, Luke 8:24-26

There is a spiritual analogue to this salvation.

[Relationships/Family] His family (1)

After Jesus announced the twelve disciples...

When the Pharisees were accusing him of being possessed by demons...

Then Jesus entered a house,
and again a crowd gathered,
so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat.

When his family heard about this,
they went to take charge of him,
for they said, "**He is out of his mind.**"

Mark 3:20-21

His family thought that He was crazy.

[Relationships/Family] His family (2)

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, Jesus' mother and brothers arrived, wanting to speak to him.

They were not able to get near him because of the crowd.

Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him.

Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

"Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

Then he looked at his disciples seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!

My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

Matthew 12:46-49, Mark 3:31-34, Luke 8:19-21

He used the arrival of his family to speak of the kingdom.

[Relationships/Family] His family (3)

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life.

But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, Jesus' **brothers** said to him,

"You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. No one who wants to become a **public figure** acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world."

For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

John 7:1-10

Were the brothers being sarcastic?

[Relationships/Family] His family (4)

Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed.

"Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked.

"Isn't this the **carpenter's son**? Isn't his **mother's** name Mary, and aren't his **brothers** James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his **sisters** with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

And they took offense at him.

But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor."

And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Matthew 13:54-58

They were familiar with the family.

[Relationships/Family] His family (5)

Extension of the family after His resurrection.

Then Jesus said to them [to Mary Magdalene and Mary],

"Do not be afraid. Go and tell my **brothers** to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Matthew 28:10

Jesus said [to Mary],

"Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my **brothers** and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

John 20:17

He considered the disciples His brothers.

[Relationships/Family] Bethany (1)

This family was a calm in the center of the storm

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way,
he came to a village
where a woman named Martha
opened her home to him.

She had a sister called Mary,
who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

But Martha was distracted
by all the preparations that had to be made.

Luke 10:38-39

This is Jesus' opportunity for home cooking.

[Relationships/Family] Bethany (2)

Martha wanted justice in the work arena.

She came to him and asked,

"Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered,

"you are worried and upset about many things, but **only one thing is needed**.

Mary has chosen what is **better**, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:40-42

Jesus points to the core of Truth.

[Relationships/Family] Bethany (3)

Mary shows an intimate gesture...

Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor.

Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard,

an **expensive perfume**;

Encounter!

she poured it on Jesus' feet

and wiped his feet with her hair.

A woman's hair was
sacred to her

And the house was **filled** with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:2-3

God likened sacrificial offerings to a "pleasing aroma".

[Relationships/Family] Bethany (4)

Judas disturbs the family atmosphere.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot,
who was later to betray him, objected,
"Why wasn't this perfume sold
and the **money given to the poor**?
It was worth a year's wages."

Hypocrisy in
the name of
"religion"

He did not say this because he cared about the poor
but because he was a **thief**;
as keeper of the money bag,
he used to help himself to what was put into it.

John 12:6-8

Judas was only interested in himself.

[Relationships/Family] Bethany (5)

Jesus explains and justifies her action.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied.

"It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.

You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

John 12:4-8

We must tell people that we love them before they are gone.

Jesus emphasizes the sacrificial and sacramental nature. He supports her act, as if it is the "right time" for it.

[Relationships/Family] Bethany (6)

The raising of Lazarus has influence both ways.

Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews

found out that Jesus was there and came,
not only because of him but also to see Lazarus,
whom he had raised from the dead.

So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well,
for on account of him many of the Jews
were going over to Jesus
and putting their faith in him.

John 12:9-11

Lazarus is a focal point that polarizes people's attitudes.

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and moral courage so rare.**

Mark Twain

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World-famous physicist demonstrates exclusion principle.

He criticized the Pharisees

for adding their traditions to the scriptures;

he criticized the Sadducees

for subtracting the supernatural

(the resurrection) from the Scriptures.

J.R.W. Stott

Encounters of note

13

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Have you ever been hit by something flying out of a truck?



Franklin Hornsby with a newspaper covering his helmet.

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The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" "Where is your faith?"

Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves (raging waters); the storm subsided and it was completely calm.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Matthew 8:23-27, Luke 8:22-26

[Healing/Salvation] The Storm (1)



main trunk

knocked off side mirror

Old Yeller

crushed car

[Relationships/Family] Being with Him (1)

13

Remember Jesus' call of the apostles

He appointed twelve

-- designating them apostles

-- **that they might be with him**

and that he might send them out to preach

Mark 3:14

It was while they walked those roads **together**
that Jesus **equipped** them in the context
of **intimate shepherd/mentor relationships**.

They Smell like Sheep, Lynn Anderson

Jesus appointed them to be with Him
(to have a relationship with Him)

[Relationships/Family] Being with Him (2)

Jesus chose them so that “they might be with him,”
and for three years, they went everywhere he went.
They went with him to weddings, temples, villages,
fields, synagogues, and sickrooms.
They even went fishing together.

Jesus changed them by his touch.
He taught them, ate with them, and protected them.
He talked with them until they began to hear his voice
way down in their souls.
Eventually, people could tell by being around them that
“they had been with Jesus.”

They Smell like Sheep, Lynn Anderson

First, Jesus had frequent and long-term contact with those whom he equipped.

Just how often was Jesus with his twelve?

Matthew records sixty-seven different occasions when Jesus and his disciples spent quality time together.

John tabulates seventy-three.

Most of these were extended associations.

In fact, as we skim the three years of Jesus' ministry, we find precious little time when Jesus and his disciples were apart.

They Smell like Sheep, Lynn Anderson

Second, Jesus enjoyed a warm and loving personal relationship with his trainees. His role was not one of boss to employees... Jesus did not reside in the officers' quarters while the Twelve bunked in the barracks. On the contrary, Jesus called them his "**friends**." He traveled with them, ate with them, even washed their feet.

They Smell like Sheep, Lynn Anderson

Third, those equipped by Jesus
were exposed to his **emotions**.

They Smell like Sheep, Lynn Anderson

Fourth, those equipped by Jesus observed him in a variety of life settings...

Find Jesus with his disciples at the synagogue

- on the road
- by a hillside
- in the temple
- in a boat
- on the road
- in the garden
- at banquets
- by the sea
- on the road
- by a well
- at a wedding
- on the mountain
- in court
- on the road...

During their travels with him, the Twelve saw Jesus in nearly every conceivable setting.

They Smell like Sheep, Lynn Anderson

[Relationships/Family] Friends (1)

Jesus acted out that greatest love by laying down His life.

My **command** is this:

Love each other as I have loved you.

Not a burden, but a better way of life!

Greater love has no one than this,
that he lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends if you do what I **command**.

I no longer call you servants...

Instead, I have called you **friends**,

for everything that I learned from my Father

I have made known to you.

John 15:12-15

He offers us the greatest compliment: friendship.

The Golden Rule (and more)

**So in everything,
do to others
what you would have them do to you,
for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.**

Matthew 7:12

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6:31

Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Romans 15:2

Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

1 Corinthians 10:24

The Cross creates a relationship that soars above the Golden Rule!

For God so **loved** the world

that he gave his one and only Son,

that whoever believes in him

shall not perish

but have eternal life.

John 3:16

The relationship with Jesus is the most important thing to pursue.

We must encounter Him as the disciples did.

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
- **Relationships / Family / Kingdom**
- **Leadership / Authority**
- Judgment
- Change / Conversion
- Worship
- Battle between Good and Evil
- Indirect

We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

[Leadership/Authority] Intro (1)

There's a big difference between leadership and authority.

You can be in authority, but not a leader.

The Pharisees were “in authority”,
but people did not follow them.

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees
sit in Moses' seat.

So you must obey them and do everything they tell you.

But **do not do what they do**,
for they **do not practice what they preach**.

Matthew 23:1-3

Jesus gives us both: We can (and must) follow Him!

[Leadership/Authority] Intro (2)

All through the ministry of Jesus,
there was a struggle for authority over the people.

Jesus fought to get people to see past the
micromanagement and legalism of the Pharisees,
and trust in the True God.

He died in his effort to convince His people.

This story fills the New Testament,
so we should have all learned the lesson.

Have we learned it yet?

[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (1)

We will examine these encounters by studying the instances when the Jewish “leaders” tried to Trap or Test Jesus.

These are direct, pre-planned attempts to cause Christ to slip up in front of his disciples.

Christ is becoming much too popular; he is leading around multitudes who are thirsting for his every word, while they are left without followers.

The situation is so crucial that sworn enemies like the Pharisees and the Herodians get together to try and put an end to the threat.

In their analysis they think that Jesus cannot escape.

[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (2)

13

There are six of these instances,
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A) Obedience to the Law

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- 3) Luke 10:25-28 – What must I do to inherit eternal life?

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- 5) Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection
- 6) Matthew 19:3-9 -- Divorce

The goal of the “leaders” is to make Jesus look bad.

**It's easy to get lost
in the discipline of obedience
without really connecting
with the one we are obeying.**

Brian Shipman

Encounters of note

14

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

We may think that we are ready, when we really aren't!

Peanuts Cartoon

We must not get over-confident.

[Leadership/Authority] David and the Temple ¹⁴

David gave the right example to follow. [PDE]

... I have provided for the temple of my God...

Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my **personal** treasures...

... who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?"

Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes..., the commanders..., and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly.

The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD.

1 Chronicles 29:1-9

David's spirit of giving was very infectious.

[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (1)

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[Leadership/Authority] Woman/Adultery (1) 14

John 8:1-11 – the woman caught in adultery

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts,
where all the people gathered around him,
and he sat down to teach them.

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees
brought in a woman caught in adultery.

John 8:1-3

Where was the man (her partner)?

[Leadership/Authority] Woman/Adultery (2) 14

The self-righteous leaders worked to humiliate others.

They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus,
"Teacher, this woman was caught
in the act of adultery.

In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women.

Now what do you say?"

They were using this question as a **trap**,
in order to have a **basis** for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down

and started to write on the ground with his finger.

John 8:4-7

What are Jesus' choices?

[Leadership/Authority] Woman/Adultery (3) 14

Possible Choices (each has its downside):

- He could side with perfect justice and the law.
'If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death.'
Lev 20:10
 - Many would react unfavorably to an execution (they were not common)
 - An execution would bring the wrath of the Romans, for it was unlawful to perform capital punishment without submitting to the courts of the Romans.
- He could ignore the law and deal in mercy and love
 1. This would bring the righteous indignation of all the Jews
 2. They could accuse Jesus of being unlawful

How could He choose between these?

[Leadership/Authority] Woman/Adultery (4) 14

Jesus had begun writing on the ground.

When they kept on questioning him,
he straightened up and said to them,
"If any one of you is **without sin**,
let him be the **first** to throw a stone at her."

Deuteronomy 17:7

Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time,
the older ones first, until only Jesus was left,
with the woman still standing there.

John 8:7-9

Whatever He wrote was very effective.

[Leadership/Authority] Woman/Adultery (5) 14

Jesus and the woman were left alone.

Jesus straightened up and asked her,

"Woman, where are they?

Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared.

"Go now and leave your life of sin."

John 8:9-11

Jesus chooses obedience to the law;

but he does it in such a way as to stun the Jews.

He chooses the law in such that

the very accusers themselves have to demand mercy.

[Leadership/Authority] Woman/Adultery (6) 14

Mercy Triumphs over Judgment (James 2:13)

Jesus ultimately based His forgiveness
on the fact that no one else condemned the woman.

Jesus avoids the trap completely –
those who set it simply fade away
without acknowledging the wisdom of His choice

Look at the attitude of acceptance that Jesus offers this woman
–
without condoning her actions He offers Grace
(which) we all need just as much as she)

The advice that Jesus gives at the end is good for us all:
Do your best to completely avoid sin.

[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (3)

14

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The goal of the “leaders” is to make Jesus look bad.

**The poor teacher stands where he is
and beckons the pupil come to him.**

**The good teacher goes to where the pupil is,
takes him,
and leads him where he ought to go.**

Thomas Aquinas

Encounters of note

15

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

It may be difficult to transition how you address people.

me

Mr. Bailey
(Scoutmaster)



Encounters of note

15

How could I call "Mr. Bailey" by his first name?



me

Alan Bailey (co-worker)

In the same way we may have trouble understanding Grace.

[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (3)

15

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[Leadership/Authority] Greatest Command (1)¹⁵

Matthew 22:34-40 – What is the greatest commandment?

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees,
the Pharisees got together.

One of them, an **expert** in the law,
tested him with this question:

"Teacher,
which is the **greatest** commandment in the Law?"

 one of the ten...

Jesus knew that they were testing Him.

This seems to be a great question, getting to the core!

[Leadership/Authority] Greatest Command (2)¹⁵

“Greatest”: assumed to be compared to the “Ten”

They are really asking for which one of the **ten commandments** was the greatest.

In their thinking, no matter which one of the ten he chose, there would be an alienation occur between Christ and those who might think that some other of the ten was the greater.

They were ready with someone to defend any of the commandments so that no matter what he picked there would be a great argument.

Jesus didn't go the direction that they wanted.

[Leadership/Authority] Greatest Command (3)¹⁵

Jesus goes back to what the “Ten” were based upon.

Jesus replied:

“Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and
with all your soul and
with all your mind.’

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it:

Lev 19:18 (also not one of the ten)

‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

All the Law and the Prophets
hang on these two commandments.”

This scripture, Deut 6:5, was called the “Shema”.

[Leadership/Authority] Greatest Command (4)¹⁵

The Shema was devoutly spoken of,
but not given much attention.

Christ hits the Jewish leaders hard with this
because they have really missed the point
about what the law was really all about.

They don't understand its purpose or its meaning.

They clung to the itemized rules

as a way of bounding people's behavior outwardly
instead of changing the inner being

so that these rules became a natural part of people.

They are stunned into speechlessness because it is obvious
that what Christ quoted was indeed the greatest law that could
be, and they could not argue it.

[Leadership/Authority] Greatest Command (5)¹⁵

The Jewish leaders were not prepared for that.

Christ goes one further than they asked for by giving them also the **second greatest** law; that of loving mankind as ourselves.

He shows elsewhere how intimately connected these two ideas were, but for here he just lets it all sink in.

Love is indeed the chief **cornerstone** for creating in ourselves what God really wants us to be.

But the Pharisees did not understand anything at all about the real message of God's Kingdom.

[Leadership/Authority] Greatest Command (6)¹⁵

As an afterword, Christ nails the lid on the coffin.

He showed that indeed these **two** commandments were the foundation for the **ten** commandments, the prophetic writings, and all that followed thereafter.

It had been hidden in the Old Law by the superstructure of the rules of the law and the traditions of the Pharisees that were built up so high and spread out that few could see it at all.

Christ here demolishes it, revealing what was there all along.

Once again Christ escapes their trap.

[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (4)

15

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[Leadership/Authority] Eternal Life (1)

Luke 10:25-28 – What must I do to inherit eternal life?

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to **test** Jesus.

"Teacher," he asked,

"what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied.

"How do you read it?"

Christ turns the thrust of the question by having the man answer for himself in his own thoughts.

**Holiness is indeed
a good hiding place for evil.**

Stephen Kendrick

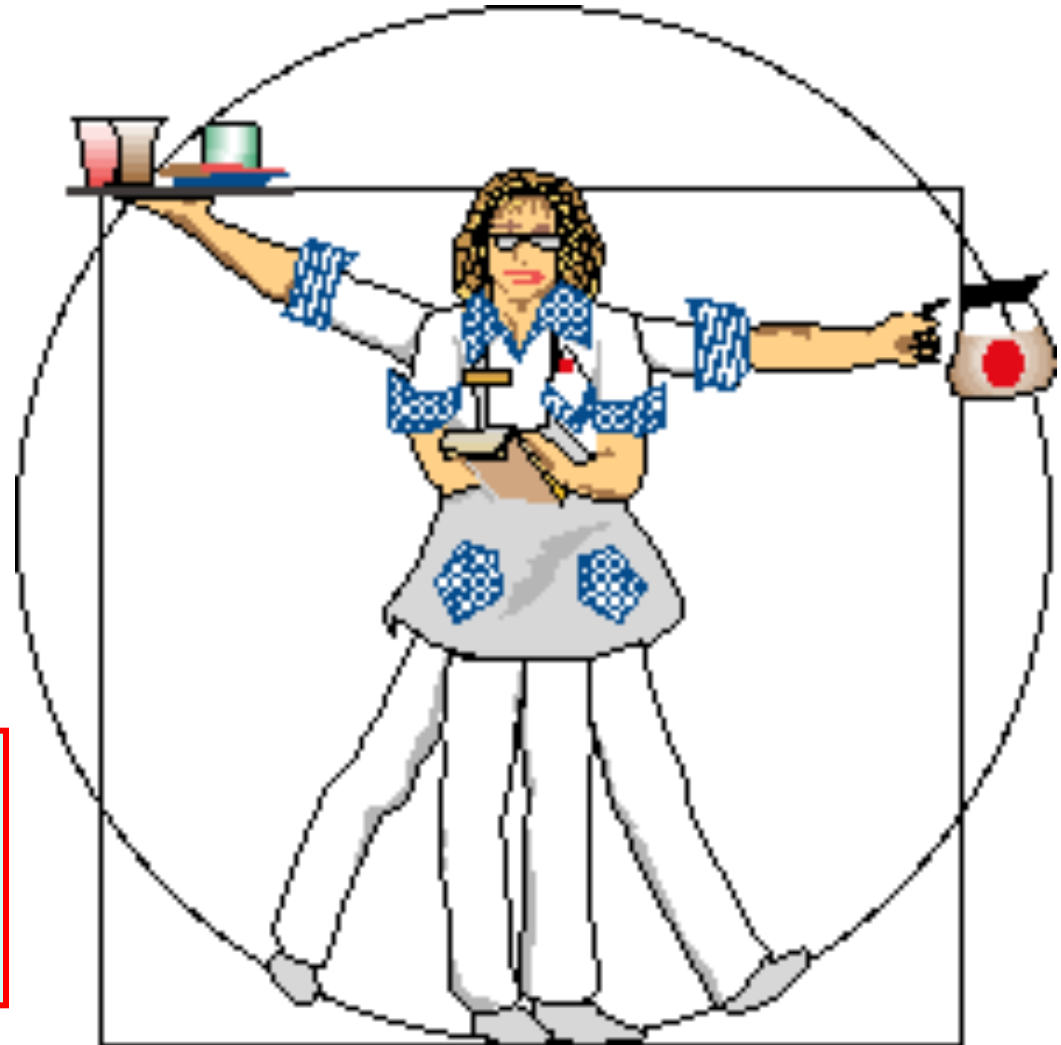
Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

It may surprise you to know the reactions of others.

How does a waitress remember your orders?

Story of waitress who left;
she had described the
customers on the ticket



[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (4)

16

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[Leadership/Authority] Eternal Life (1)

Luke 10:25-28 – What must I **do** to inherit eternal life?

 **be**

On one occasion an **expert** in the law stood up to **test** Jesus.

"Teacher," he asked,

"what must I **do** to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied.

(Jesus)

"How do you read it?"

Christ turns the thrust of the question by having the man answer for himself in his own thoughts.

[Leadership/Authority] Eternal Life (2)

Though the man was trying to test Jesus,
He answered correctly: both of the greatest commands.

He answered:

"Love the Lord your God
with all your **heart** and
with all your **soul** and
with all your **strength**
and with all your **mind**"; and,

'Love your **neighbor** as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied.

"Do this and you will live."

connect "doing" right with "being" right

This man had probably heard Jesus' previous answer.

[Leadership/Authority] Eternal Life (3)

**Perhaps the man was really trying to find out the truth,
and was not just a puppet of the Jews.**

**We see the emphasis here on 'doing' something.
This was the question that plagued the Pharisees.**

- how to earn salvation,**
- what rules must they obey**
- what tasks must they check off on the list.**

**Christ deals with the contrast of internal feelings
verses the external nature of the law and deeds.**

**Knowing the man was asking a question about the law,
Christ asked him to give an answer based on the law.**

[Leadership/Authority] Eternal Life (4)

Note the emphasis on “doing” a good work as essential.

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked,

"Teacher, what **good thing** must I **do** to get eternal life?"

"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied.

"There is only One who is good.

If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

"Which ones?" the man inquired.

Matthew 19:16-18

This is another example of the mindset of “works”.

[Leadership/Authority] Eternal Life (5)

Note the emphasis on “doing” a good work as essential.

Jesus replied,

“Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.”

"All these I have kept," the young man said.

"What do I still lack?"

Matthew 19:16-22

This man is working a checklist.
He has no idea of the magnitude of True Love.

There was another level above his religious thinking.

The question here is,

'What is the basis of our obedience to the law?

**Is it because it is the only way for us
to get what we want,**

**or is it because we are becoming truly like God
in character,**

and these activities simply are natural to us?'

**It is this lesson that we must each contemplate
with all of our hearts.**

Do we obey because we agree?

[Leadership/Authority] Eternal Life (7)

Return to the first story to get the final analysis.

After finding approval from his answer to that question, he asks concerning the real nature of his neighbor, to which Christ relates the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Christ answers the question of “who is my neighbor” by relating a great parable that shows True Good in action.

[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (5)

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[Leadership/Authority] Taxes (1)

Matthew 22:15-22 – taxes

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words.

They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians.

"Teacher," they said, "we know **you are a man of integrity** and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.

flattery

You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are.

Tell us then, what is your opinion?

Is it **right** to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

question of law?

Is this a political or purely selfish question?

[Leadership/Authority] Taxes (2)

Jesus was bound to offend a large group.

There were basically two choices:

- **Jesus could side with the Zealots and show loyalty to God by not paying the tax**
 - most of the Jews would be extremely pleased, for they did not want to pay it (how do you feel about a candidate for public office who promises to reduce taxes?)
 - This would most certainly brand him as a rebel in the eyes of the Roman government (this would suit the purposes of the Jews very well, who would let Rome get rid of Christ).
- **He could side with the Herodians and be loyal to Rome.**
 - The Jews would see him as disloyal and weak
 - The Jews were fiercely nationalistic and refused to pay tribute to anyone

The Herodians didn't want anyone to rock the boat.

Matthew 22:15-22 – taxes

But Jesus, **knowing their evil intent**, said,

"You hypocrites, why are you trying to **trap** me?

Show me the coin used for paying the tax."

They brought him a denarius, and he asked them,

"Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's,
and to God what is God's."

When they heard this, they were amazed.

So they left him and went away.

Jesus knows exactly what they are up to.

[Leadership/Authority] Taxes (4)

Christ chastises the Jews for putting him to the test.

**The accusation disturbs them,
and in this state he asks them for a coin.**

**This is a master stroke,
for by making them produce a coin themselves,
he does not show that he uses such coinage;**

Imagine the minds of the Jews at this point:

they had absolutely no idea of what was to come next.

**By asking them whose image and words were on the coin,
he causes them to think him a fool –
(like if I did not know whose picture was on a dollar bill!**

Jesus reverses the trap, and they fall into it!

[Leadership/Authority] Taxes (5)

The coinage was produced by Rome for use in the empire.

When he causes them to answer,

he has essentially made them dig their own grave,

They have answered their own question,

and we see Christ escaping the trap.

They proved that they used this monetary system,

and accepted the Roman way of doing business,

and the benefits that came with it (Pax Romana).

Christ simply points out that

if it has Caesar's name and picture on it,

then surely it must be Caesar's!

They love money too much to not use Roman coins!

[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (5)

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**Don't see your child
as a blank slate
awaiting your pen,
but as a written book
awaiting your study.**

Max Lucado

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Are encounters with physical things your problem?



When mowing, wear steel-toed boots and stay focused!

Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection

That same day the Sadducees,
who say there is no resurrection,
came to him with a question.

"Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies
without having children, his brother must marry the
widow and have children for him.

Matthew 22:23-24

Here the attack comes from the Sadducees, a more worldly
oriented group that did not believe in
the resurrection,
angels,
or scripture past the first five books of the Old Testament.

[Leadership/Authority] Resurrection (2)

17

Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection

The Sadducees and Pharisees had been arguing for many years about the existence of the resurrection. The Old Testament as a whole is pretty silent about it, but if you eliminate from consideration all but the books of Moses, the information is very slim indeed! And so a great controversy and debate had grown centered on the attempt to prove or disprove the idea of a resurrection based on this limited scripture.

The real issue here is about the nature of spiritual things.

Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection

To the Sadducees, there were only the two sides to choose: theirs or the Pharisees.

They invented a special circumstantial story which they just knew made any idea of a resurrection so ridiculous that Christ would not dare agree to it!

And so, based on their own conception of what heaven would be like, they framed their question.

Once again the calculated goal is to make Christ lose part of his audience; either the Pharisees or the Sadducees.

Paul used the same tactic in Acts 23:6!

Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection

Now there were seven brothers among us.

**The first one married and died,
and since he had no children,
he left his wife to his brother.**

**The same thing happened
to the second and third brother,
right on down to the seventh.**

Finally, the woman died.

**Now then, at the resurrection,
whose wife will she be of the seven,
since all of them were married to her?"**

Matthew 22:25-28

Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection

First, we see Jesus rip from them their smugness by exposing them for their ignorance of the scriptures.

Jesus replied, "You are in **error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.**

At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.

[see next test](#)

Matthew 22:29-30

They never dreamed that Christ could counter their offense. They wanted Christ to be on the defense, but at the very beginning he puts them on the defense.

Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection

Christ explains simply that they have no idea what heaven is like, or they would know that there is no marriage there. Instead of them making Christ look ridiculous, he makes them look that way.

Then Christ shocks them even further by showing them the answer to the very debate that they have been waging for years; and he shows them from the books of Moses!

Here was something lying in the scriptures all of that time, but none of the “scholars” had ever noticed it! Here again, they did not **know** the scriptures.

Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection

**But about the resurrection of the dead –
have you not read what God said to you,**

***'I am the God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac,
and the God of Jacob' ?***

The sense of “I am” is
that of continuing
relationship with them

He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

Matthew 22:31-32

If God called himself the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
how could they not be alive?

Could their God be the God of the dead?

Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection

When the crowds heard this,
they were **astonished** at his teaching.

Matthew 22:33

The Lord God is the God of the living
and therefore there must be a resurrection!

[Leadership/Authority] Traps and Tests (6)

17

There are six of these instances,
in two basic categories.

A) Obedience to the Law

- 1) John 8:1-11 – the woman caught in adultery
- 2) Matthew 22:34-40 – What is the greatest commandment?
- 3) Luke 10:25-28 – What must I do to inherit eternal life?

B) Forcing Jesus to take sides and reduce His following

- 4) Matthew 22:15-22 – taxes
- 5) Matthew 22:23-33 -- Resurrection
- 6) Matthew 19:3-9 -- Divorce

The goal of the “leaders” is to make Jesus look bad.

[Leadership/Authority] Divorce (1)

Matthew 19:3-9 -- Divorce

Some Pharisees came to him to **test** him.

They asked,

"Is it lawful
for a man to divorce his wife
for any and every reason?"

Matthew 19:3-9

Unfortunately, the issue was not,

'What does God really want, and how can we achieve it?

The real issue is,

'We know what God said in a certain verse about divorce,
and we want to know what we can legally get away with'.

[Leadership/Authority] Divorce (2)

Matthew 19:3-9 -- Divorce

If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house...

Deuteronomy 24:1-2

There were two major schools of interpretation.

- 1) Loose: a rabbi named Hillel said that this indecency could mean anything that a husband didn't like such as looks, cooking, etc.**
- 2) Strict: another rabbi named Shammai said that this indecency only meant adultery.**

Once again, the attempt is made to split the following of Christ.

Matthew 19:3-9 -- Divorce

There were many on each side of this argument, and the Jews thought that Christ was sure to lose a many followers no matter what he answered.

But Christ once again stuns them with his answer.

He puts them on the spot by exposing their ignorance, not only of scripture but what God really meant with it.

He begins with the phrase, 'Have you not read...', then he proceeds with a passage that shows that they have not really paid attention to what God really wants to accomplish with marriage.

[Leadership/Authority] Divorce (4)

Matthew 19:3-9 -- Divorce

**"Haven't you read," he replied,
"that at the beginning the Creator
'made them male and female,' and said,
'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother
and be united to his wife,
and the two will become one flesh'?
So they are no longer two, but one.
Therefore what God has joined together,
let man not separate."**

Matthew 19:4-6

**God wanted the marriage relationship to be
a glimpse of our relationship with Him.**

[Leadership/Authority] Divorce (5)

Matthew 19:3-9 -- Divorce

"Why then," they asked, "did Moses **command** that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

Jesus doesn't condemn, but recognizes the sin

Jesus replied, "Moses **permitted** you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Matthew 19:4-9

Are we submitting to rules, or trying to do what God wants?

[Leadership/Authority] Divorce (6)

Matthew 19:3-9 -- Divorce

The Pharisees missed the point that God hates divorce!

**Did they really care about what God wants,
or did they just want a clarification of the rules?**

Do we miss the point too?

**At the resurrection people will neither marry
nor be given in marriage;
they will be like the angels in heaven.**

Matthew 22:29-30

**This is not just about divorce:
God hates to have any problems
in relationships between people**

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus' own test (1)

17

Jesus gives his own test to challenge the Jews.

"What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

"The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.""

If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?"

No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Matthew 22:42-46

The Jewish leaders simply could not prevail against Jesus.

**... many... Christians...
look for God's hand
only in the lightning
and never think of seeing it
in the sunlight.**

F. E. Clark

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Are encounters with physical things your problem?

Peanuts Cartoon

Do you have a nemesis?

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (1A) ¹⁸

Jesus finally goes on offense against the hypocrisy.

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

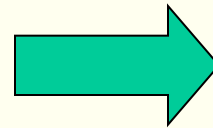
"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees
sit in Moses' seat. Authority

So you must obey them and do everything they tell you.

But do not do what they do,

for they do not practice what they preach.

They **tie up heavy loads**
and put them on men's shoulders,



but they themselves are not willing
to lift a finger to move them.

Matthew 23:1-4

There is a huge difference between real and fake spirituality.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (1B) ¹⁸

Jesus has a different view of authority.

"Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am **gentle** and **humble** in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.

Humble authority?

For my yoke is **easy** and my burden is **light**."

Matthew 11:28-30

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows...

Lifting our burdens with more than His little finger!

Isaiah 53:4

Jesus came to give us a better life (here and hereafter).

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (2) 18

The Pharisee's religion was to look important.

"Everything they do is done for men to see:

They make their phylacteries wide

and the tassels on their garments long;

they love the place of honor at banquets

and the most important seats in the synagogues;

they love to be greeted in the marketplaces

and to have men call them 'Rabbi.'

Matthew 23:5-7

They wanted to be in authority and have people salute them.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (3) 18

Jesus puts the correct perspective on authority.

"But you are not to be called '**Rabbi**,'
for you have only one **Master** and you are all brothers.
And do not call anyone on earth '**father**,'
for you have one **Father**, and he is in heaven.
Nor are you to be called '**teacher**,'
for you have one **Teacher**, the Christ.
The greatest among you will be your servant.
For whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
Matthew 23:8-12

The idea of a servant leader is a great shock to everyone.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (4) ¹⁸

Jesus describes the results of the Pharisees' "authority".

**"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,
you **hypocrites!**
You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces.
You yourselves do not enter,
nor will you let those enter who are trying to.**

**"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,
you **hypocrites!**
You travel over land and sea to win a single convert,
and when he becomes one,
you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.**

Matthew 23:13-15

Leadership creates much better disciples than authority.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (5) 18

Jesus claims that the Pharisees are blind and cannot lead.

“... You say,

**'If anyone swears by the temple (altar), it means nothing;
but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple (gift on it),
he is bound by his oath.'**

You **blind fools!**

**Which is greater: the gold (gift), or the temple (altar)
that makes the gold (gift) sacred?**

Therefore,

**he who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it.
And he who swears by the temple swears by it
and by the one who dwells in it.**

**And he who swears by heaven swears by God's throne
and by the one who sits on it.**

Matthew 23:16-23

The Pharisees' religion of importance made riches sacred.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (6) 18

Jesus tries to emphasize the core of the Truth.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,
you **hypocrites!**

You give a tenth of your spices -- mint, dill and cummin.

But you have neglected

the **more important** matters of the law –
justice, mercy and faithfulness.

You should have practiced the latter,
without neglecting the former.

You **blind** guides!

You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

Matthew 23:24-25

Jesus shows the absurdity of the Pharisees' approach.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (7) ¹⁸

There is a great difference between the inner and outer.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,
you **hypocrites!**

You clean the outside of the cup and dish,
but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

Blind Pharisee!

First clean the inside of the cup and dish,
and then the outside also will be clean.

Matthew 23:25-26

Jesus demands that we change our hearts.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (8) 18

There is a great difference between the inner and outer.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,
you **hypocrites!**

You are like whitewashed tombs,
which look beautiful on the outside
but on the inside are full of dead men's bones
and everything unclean.

In the same way,
on the outside you appear to people as righteous
but on the inside you are full of **hypocrisy**
and wickedness.

Matthew 23:27-29

Appearances do not cover the rottenness within.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (9) 18

Jesus grieves over the shed blood of God's other servants.

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,
you **hypocrites!**

You build tombs for the prophets
and **decorate the graves of the righteous.**

And you say,

'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers,
we would not have taken part with them
in shedding the blood of the prophets.'

So you testify against yourselves that you are the
descendants of those who murdered the prophets.

Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your forefathers!

Matthew 23:30-32

Jesus calls the Pharisees murderers!.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (10) ¹⁸

Jesus wants them to think of how they might escape.

"You snakes! You brood of vipers!

How will you escape being condemned to hell?

**Therefore I am sending you prophets and wise men
and teachers.**

**Some of them you will kill and crucify;
others you will flog in your synagogues
and pursue from town to town.**

**And so upon you will come all the righteous blood
that has been shed on earth,
from the blood of righteous Abel
to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah,
whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.**

Matthew 23:33-35

Jesus dumps the full load of guilt on them.

[Leadership/Authority] Jesus on offense (11) ¹⁸

Jesus yearns for people to follow Him.

I tell you the truth, all this will come upon this generation.

**"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you,
how often I have **longed**
to gather your children together,
as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,
but you were not willing.**

Matthew 23:36-37

These were a totally different kind of encounter with Jesus.

We must be willing to follow Jesus.

[Leadership/Authority] Cleansing the temple (1)¹⁸

Jesus encounters those who profit from religion.

In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

So he made a **whip out of cords, and **drove** out all who were buying and selling in the temple area, and the sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He said, "How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"**

And as he **taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"**

Matt 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17, Luke 19:45-46, John 2:13-21

We must not pervert the truth, especially not for money.

[Leadership/Authority] Cleansing the temple (2)¹⁸

The Pharisees want proof of His authority.

Then the Jews demanded of him,

**"What miraculous sign can you show us
to prove your **authority** to do all this?"**

Jesus answered them,

**"Destroy this temple,
and I will raise it again in three days."**

The Jews replied,

**"It has taken forty-six years to build this temple,
and you are going to raise it in three days?"**

But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

John 2:18-21

Jesus confuses them with the type of proof He offers.

[Leadership/Authority] Cleansing the temple (3)¹⁸

Jesus had been in the temple many years before.

Chances are

**at least a few who were listening that day in the temple
were there twenty-one years later
to watch not a meek child,
but an angry young man rage
against the greed and hypocrisy
He had first seen there as a boy.**

Michael Card

Did anybody make the connection?

[Leadership/Authority] Cleansing the temple (4)¹⁸

How violent could Christ have been here?

... the account in John 2 in no way suggests violence.

He no doubt stood

with a bunch of discarded cattle halters in his hand,

and, by the mere force and power of his prestige,

promoted uneasiness, fumbling,

and the development of a stampede among the beasts.

He needed no personal action to

‘overturn the tables of the moneychangers.’

E.M. Blaiklock

Does this reflect the nature of Christ?

[Leadership/Authority] Impact (1)

What is the impact of these encounters?

**The Pharisees were frozen in place – unable to respond.
Did the Pharisees change as a result of the encounter?
only a few...**

**Just as God put his hand over Moses
to protect him as He went by,
how can God (Jesus) spar verbally with man
without blinding him in a flash of truth and power?**

**His enemies are not manipulating Him so much
as He is manipulating them...**

H.H. Farmer

Jesus won, but did not win the Pharisees over.

**Many folks want to serve God,
but only as advisers!**

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

A class reunion is a great place to encounter...



People who have certainly changed a lot in 35 years!

[Leadership/Authority] Authority at the trial (1)¹⁹

The High Priest

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"

But Jesus remained **silent**.

The high priest said to him, "I **charge you under oath** by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.

Matthew 26:62-65

Jesus obeyed when charged to answer.

[Leadership/Authority] Authority at the trial (2)¹⁹

Herod

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him.

From what he had heard about him,

he hoped to see him perform some miracle.

He plied him with many questions,

but Jesus gave him **no answer**.

The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him.

Luke 23:8-10

Jesus felt no obligation at all to obey “King” Herod.

[Leadership/Authority] Authority at the trial (3)¹⁹

Pilate

"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said.

"Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Jesus answered,

**"You would have no power over me
if it were not given to you from above.**

**Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of
a greater sin."**

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free...

John 19:10-12

Jesus actually discussed the nature of authority with Pilate.

[Leadership/Authority] On the water (1)

Where all would you follow Jesus?

... Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.
When the disciples saw him... they were **terrified**.

"It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in **fear**.

But Jesus immediately said to them:

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied,

"tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat,

walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Matthew 14:25-31

Peter wanted to follow Jesus,
and wanted Him to tell him to come to Him.

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
- **Relationships / Family / Kingdom**
- **Leadership / Authority**
- **Judgment**
- Change / Conversion
- Worship
- Battle between Good and Evil
- Indirect

We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (1)

One feature of this encounter is acceptance.

Now he had to go through Samaria.

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar,
near the plot of ground

Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus,
tired as he was from the journey,
sat down by the well.

Jesus sought out
this encounter with
non-Israelites.

It was about the sixth hour.

(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

John 4:4-6, 8

This was Samaria, but still the land of God's people.

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (2)

The woman wasn't given a name.

**When a Samaritan woman came to draw water,
Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"**

Jesus makes the first move.

The Samaritan woman said to him,

"You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. **two strikes**

How can you ask me for a drink?"

(For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

John 4:7, 9

**Jesus shocked this woman by asking for water.
She was used to being thought of as a 'dog' by Jews.**

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (3)

Jesus is looking for people who can perceive the truth.

Jesus answered her,

"If you knew the gift of God
and who it is that asks you for a drink,
you would have asked him
and he would have given you **living water.**"

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with
and the well is deep.

Where can you get this **living water**?

or Abraham,
John 8:53

Are you **greater** than our father Jacob,
who gave us the well and drank from it himself,
as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

John 4:10-12

The woman tries to put Jesus in perspective with the Patriarchs.

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (4)

Jesus promises the eternal answer to all of our needs.

Jesus answered,

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will **never thirst**.

Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a **spring of water welling up to eternal life.**"

The woman said to him,

She responds to His teaching.

"Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

John 4:13-16

The woman begins to understand about the special water.

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (5)

Jesus deals with her personal history now.

 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

She thinks she is safe with this answer!

"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her,

Perhaps she shows another thirst:
for a quality relationship.

"You are right when you say you have no husband.
The fact is, you have had five husbands,
and the man you now have is not your husband.
What you have just said is quite true."

John 4:16-18

Jesus complements her for telling the truth,
but he shows that he knows about her relationships.

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (6)

The woman is interested in true worship.

"Sir," the woman said,

"I can see that you are a **prophet**.

Our fathers worshiped on this mountain,
but you Jews claim that the **place**
where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus declared,

"Believe me, woman, a **time** is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

John 4:19-21

Jesus answers her surface question on **where** to worship.

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (7)

True worship is at the real root of her question.

You Samaritans worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know,
for salvation is from the Jews.

Yet a time is coming and has now come
when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father
in spirit and truth,
for they are the kind of worshipers the Father **seeks**.
God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship
in spirit and in truth."

John 4:22-24

Jesus describes what God wants; he wants our hearts.

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (8)

The Samaritan woman also expects the Christ.

The woman said,

"I know that **Messiah**" (called **Christ**) "is coming.

When he comes, he will **explain everything** to us."

Then Jesus declared, "**I who speak to you am he.**"

John 4:25-26

Jesus confesses that He is the Christ.

This is the first person (in the record) that He reveals this to.

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (9)

The disciples return to play a small part.

Just then his disciples returned
and were **surprised** to find him talking with a **woman**.

But no one asked,
"What do you want?" or
"Why are you talking with her?"

John 4:25-26

The disciples were afraid to question the Teacher (authority).

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (10)

The woman becomes a missionary.

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,

"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the **Christ**?"

They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony,
"He told me everything I ever did."

John 4:28-31

Whatever her reputation, the townspeople believe her.

[Judgment] Woman at the Well (11)

The woman provided the introduction.

So when the Samaritans came to him,
they urged him to stay with them,
and he stayed two days.

And because of his words many more became believers.

They said to the woman,

"We no longer believe just because of what you said;
now we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this man really is
the Savior of the world."

John 4:28-30

The entire town was converted after hearing Christ Himself.

**A great teacher never strives
to explain his vision –
he simply invites you to stand beside him
and see for yourself.**

R. Inman

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Some encounters are not too serious...

Peanuts Cartoon!

But people love to over-dramatize them!

**The most powerful weapon on earth
is the human soul on fire.**

Ferdinand Foch

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Have you ever encountered another vehicle?



We imagine the impact and pain at the time of impact!

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
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- **Change / Conversion**
- **Worship**
- **Battle between Good and Evil**
- **Indirect**

We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

[Change/Conversion] Introduction (1)

At the root of Christ's purpose is to change us.

I tell you the truth,
unless you **change** and become like little children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Matthew 4:17

I tell you... there will be more rejoicing in heaven
over one sinner who **repents**
than over ninety-nine righteous persons
who do not need to repent.

Luke 15:7

I have not come to call the righteous,
but sinners to **repentance**.

Luke 5:32

[[Change/Conversion] The Rich Young Ruler (1)²¹

The rich young ruler appeared to have it all (almost).

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked,

"Teacher, what **good thing** must I **do** to get eternal life?"

"Why do you ask me about what is **good**?" Jesus replied.

"There is only **One** who is **good**.

If you want to **enter life**,
obey the commandments.

"Which ones?" the man inquired.

Matthew 19:16-18

He must suspect that Jesus has a command to add.

[Change/Conversion] The Rich Young Ruler (2)²¹

Does this young man need to be converted?

Jesus replied,

"Do not murder,
do not commit adultery,
do not steal,
do not give false testimony,
honor your father and mother,' and
'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"**All** these I have kept," the young man said.

"What do I still lack?"

Matthew 19:16-20

His self-assurance is about to be shattered

[Change/Conversion] The Rich Young Ruler (3)²¹

Jesus shows the way to be like God.

Jesus answered,

"If you want to be **perfect**,
go, sell your possessions and
give to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven.

Then come, follow me."

When the young man heard this,
he went away **sad**,
because he had great wealth.

Matthew 19:21-22

This man is not truly converted to what Good really is.

[Change/Conversion] Zacchaeus (1)

Zacchaeus felt a tremendous need to change.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.

**A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus;
he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.**

**He wanted to see who Jesus was,
but being a short man he could not,
because of the crowd.**

**So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree
to see him,
since Jesus was coming that way.**

Luke 19:1-9

He worked very hard to be able to see Jesus.

[Change/Conversion] Zacchaeus (2)

Jesus knows that Zacchaeus is in need.

When Jesus reached the spot,
he looked up and said to him,

"Zacchaeus, **come down immediately.**
I must stay at your house today."

So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter,
"He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

Luke 19:5-7

Jesus invites himself into Zacchaeus' house (and heart).

[Change/Conversion] Zacchaeus (3)

Zacchaeus promised full restitution to those he cheated.

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord,

"Look, Lord!

Here and now I give

half of my possessions to the poor,
and if I have cheated anybody out of anything,
I will **pay back four times** the amount."

Jesus said to him,

"Today salvation has come to this house,
because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

Luke 19:8-9

Zacchaeus was indeed converted.

[Change/Conversion] Paul (1)

Saul was going full speed against Christ.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples.

He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1-2

He was trying to stop the growth of Christianity.

[Change/Conversion] Paul (2)

Saul had great encounter with Christ.

**As he neared Damascus on his journey,
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.**

**He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him,
"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"**

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

**"Now get up and go into the city,
and you will be told what you must do."**

Acts 9:3-6

**Saul is stopped in his tracks
by the very person he was persecuting!**

[Change/Conversion] Paul (3)

Saul calls Christ “Lord”.

**Saul got up from the ground,
but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing.
So they led him by the hand into Damascus.
For three days he was blind,
and did not eat or drink anything.
Then Ananias went to the house and entered it.
Placing his hands on Saul, he said,
"Brother Saul, the Lord -- Jesus,
who appeared to you on the road...
has sent me so that you may see again
and be filled with the Holy Spirit."**

Acts 9:7-16

Saul is given three days to think about this.

[Change/Conversion] Paul (4)

Saul's blindness is healed both physically and spiritually.

Immediately,

**something like scales fell from Saul's eyes,
and he could see again.**

**He got up and was baptized,
and after taking some food,
he regained his strength.**

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

At once he began to preach in the synagogues
that Jesus is the Son of God.

Acts 9:17-20

Saul is now full speed for the kingdom of Christ.

**Christ breaks the hard heart,
and heals the broken one.**

**There are times when we need to hear
sweet and tender words of reassurance.**

**There are other times, however,
when we need to be broken.**

**Christ takes no pleasure in breaking us,
nor is his ultimate aim to leave us shattered.**

**His goal in breaking us down is to put us back together
in a renewed and more spiritual manner.**

Alister McGrath

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
- **Relationships / Family / Kingdom**
- **Leadership / Authority**
- **Judgment**
- **Change / Conversion**
- **Worship**
- Battle between Good and Evil
- Indirect

We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

[Worship] Woman at the Well (return)

The worship encounter must be in spirit and truth.

**You Samaritans worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know,
for salvation is from the Jews.**

**Yet a time is coming and has now come
when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father
in spirit and truth,
for they are the kind of worshipers the Father **seeks**.
God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship
in spirit and in truth."**

John 4:22-24

We must bring our whole heart and soul to God.

[Worship] Bowing (1)

Bowing represents tribute and subservience.

Legion: When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. Mark 5:6

Syro-Phoenecian woman: ...as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. Mark 7:25

Rich Young Ruler: As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Mark 10:17

Leper: When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Luke 5:12

Were these examples of worship or need?

[Worship] Bowing (2)

Worship does include knowing the perspective of Worth.

Jairus: Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house **Luke 8:41**

Woman with an issue of Blood: Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. **Luke 8:47**

Fishermen helped with a big catch: When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" **Luke 5:8**

Mary, brother of Lazarus: (John 11:32) Mary... fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **John 4:22-24**

The latter two more accurately show worship.

[Worship] Bowing (3)

Bowing does not always mean worship.

**Whenever the evil spirits saw him,
they fell down before him and cried out,
"You are the Son of God."**

Mark 3:11

**When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet,
shouting at the top of his voice,
"What do you want with me, Jesus,
Son of the Most High God?
I beg you, don't torture me!"**

Luke 8:28

We can go through the motions, but God recognizes truth.

In everyone's life,
at some time,
our inner fire goes out.

It is then burst into **flame**
by an **encounter**
with another human being.

We should all be thankful
for those people
who rekindle the inner spirit.

Albert Schweitzer

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

Some encounters are one-sided.

Peanuts Cartoon

It's better not to engage in pointless arguments.

[Worship] Nighttime Encounter (1)

Nicodemus was either secretive or very busy.

**Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus,
a member of the Jewish ruling council.**

He came to Jesus at night and said,

**"Rabbi, we know you are a teacher
who has come from God.**

**For no one could perform the miraculous signs
you are doing if God were not with him."**

**In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can
see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."**

John 3:1-3

Nicodemus did recognize the true Christ.

[Worship] Nighttime Encounter (2)

Nicodemus was involved in another nighttime activity.

**With Pilate's permission, he [Joseph of Arimathea]
came and took the body away.**

He was accompanied by Nicodemus,

the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.

**Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes,
about seventy-five pounds.**

**Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it,
with the spices, in strips of linen...**

**Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation
and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.**

John 19:38-42

What a loving encounter, to bury the crucified Christ.

[Worship] Realization (1)

**Worship means the realization of who God is
(and who we are in relation).**

**Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve,
was not with the disciples when Jesus came.**

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the **Lord!"**

But he said to them,

**"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands
and put my finger where the nails were,
and put my hand into his side,**

I will not believe it."

John 20:24-25

Thomas did not yet recognize the true Christ.

[Worship] Realization (2)

Thomas' final reserve collapses as full realization dawns.

**A week later his disciples were in the house again,
and Thomas was with them.**

**Though the doors were locked,
Jesus came and stood among them and said,
"Peace be with you!"**

**Then he said to Thomas,
"Put your finger here; see my hands.
Reach out your hand and put it into my side.
Stop doubting and believe."**

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:26-28

Thomas breaks down and confesses the Christ.

[Worship] Realization (3)

We must also realize who and what Christ is.

Then Jesus told him,

**"Because you have seen me,
you have believed;**

blessed are those who have **not seen
and yet have believed."**

John 20:29

We don't have the benefit of seeing and touching Christ.

It is important to realize

that the twentieth chapter of John relates... stories of encounters with Christ that banish doubt.

[Mary Magdalene, the disciples, and then Thomas]

There is no attempt on the part of the risen Christ

to persuade Mary with rational arguments that he is risen...

He simply speaks Mary's name, and she responds with his.

She **recognizes** him.

That is all that is needed.

Having **encountered** and **recognized** Christ,

she cannot doubt any longer."

Then Jesus' disciples said,

**"Now you are speaking clearly
and without figures of speech.**

Now we can see that you know all things

and that you do not even need

to have anyone ask you questions.

This makes us believe that you came from God."

John 16:29-30

"You believe at last!" Jesus answered. (John 16:31)

[The eight-ball is put in to end the game!]

[Worship] Peter – Great Confession (1)

The disciples had walked with Jesus for some time.

**When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi,
he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"**

They replied,

**"Some say John the Baptist;
others say Elijah; and still others,
Jeremiah or one of the prophets."**

**The people did not
include "Messiah"
in their list**

"But what about you?" he asked.

"Who do **you say I am?"**

Matthew 16:13-15

Jesus challenges to them to decide who He really is.

[Worship] Peter – Great Confession (2)

Simon **realizes** who He is, and is bold enough to answer.

Simon Peter answered,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah,
for this was not revealed to you by man,
but by my Father in heaven.

And I tell you that you are Peter,
and **on this rock I will build my church**,
and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:16-18

Jesus proclaims His kingship and also His kingdom.

[Worship] Peter – Great Confession (3)

Christ delegates authority to the apostles.

**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven;
whatever you bind on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth
will be loosed in heaven."**

**Then he warned his disciples
not to tell anyone
that he was the Christ.**

**He wanted them to
come to their own
realization.**

Matthew 16:19-20

**Though Peter proclaimed the Christ,
Jesus was not ready to broadcast it.**

[Worship] Recognition (1)

Christ was the true light, but his own did not realize it.

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

**He was in the world,
and though the world was made through him,
the world did not **recognize** him.**

**He came to that which was his own,
but his own did not receive him.**

**Yet to all who received him,
to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God...**

John 1:9-12

We must recognize Jesus as the Christ.

[Worship] Recognition (2)

Christ was the Great Shepherd.

... the sheep **listen** to his voice.

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own,

he goes on ahead of them,

and his sheep follow him

because they know his voice.

But they will never follow a stranger;

in fact, they will run away from him

because they do not **recognize**

a stranger's voice.

If they didn't
recognize the true
shepherd, they
could leave his
protection

John 10:2-5

Do we recognize His voice?

[Worship] Peter – Rock? (1)

Peter's recognition of Christ came and went.

Remember Peter walking on water.

- He initially was successful, but then began to sink.

Remember Peter rebuked Christ for predicting His death.

- Christ called him Satan and told him to get behind Him.

Remember Him drawing a sword to fight in the garden.

- He bravely attacked, but then ran when Christ stopped him.

Remember Peter denying Christ.

- He swore to die with Christ, but then denied him three times.

Remember Peter running to the tomb.

- He lost the race, but was first in the tomb.

Peter kept encountering different sides of Christ.

**The encounters between Christ and Peter
speak to us powerfully
of the role of failure
in the life of faith,
and of our need
to be recommissioned by Christ.”**

Alister McGrath

refreshed

**I believe that Dirac and Einstein,
in making their great discoveries,
were participating in
an **encounter** with the divine.**

John Polkinghorne

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

We avoid encounters that we know would be beneficial.

Peanuts Cartoon

We need to express our feelings to those we love.

[Worship] Peter – Help with Fishing (1)

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples.

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples,
by the Sea of Tiberias.

It happened this way:

Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus),
Nathanael from Cana in Galilee,
the sons of Zebedee,
and two other disciples were together.

"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them,
and they said, "We'll go with you."

So they went out and got into the boat,
but that night they caught nothing.

We already
discussed a similar
situation in Luke 5:8
where Peter felt
himself unworthy

Peter
wanted to
do
something!

John 21:1-3

[Worship] Peter – Help with Fishing (2)

They don't know who He is at first.

**Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore,
but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.**

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

**He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat
and you will find some."**

**When they did, they were unable to haul the net in
because of the large number of fish.**

John 21:4-6

The magnitude of the catch indicated miraculous help.

[Worship] Peter – Help with Fishing (3)

John is the first to realize that it is the Christ.

**Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter,
"It is the Lord!"**

**As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord,"
he wrapped his outer garment around him
(for he had taken it off)
and jumped into the water.**

Peter goes into
action again!

John 21:7

But this realization has the greatest effect on Peter.

[Worship] Peter – Help with Fishing (4)

The disciples find their Lord tending a cooking fire.

**The other disciples followed in the boat,
towing the net full of fish,
for they were not far from shore,
about a hundred yards.**

**When they landed,
they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it,
and some bread.**

Jesus is not
an apparition

**Jesus said to them,
"Bring some of the fish you have just caught."**

John 21:8-10

Jesus asks them to bring in some of their catch.

[Worship] Peter – Help with Fishing (5)

Peter had to climb back in the boat to obey Christ.

Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore.

It was full of large fish, 153,

but even with so many the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and have **breakfast."**

None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?"

They knew it was the Lord.

Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them,

and did the same with the fish.

John 21:11-13

There was no doubt in their minds now.

**The presence of Christ
made Peter realize his nakedness of body.
So should it make us realize
our nakedness of spirit.**

[Worship] Peter – Feed my Sheep (1)

Jesus performs a “check” on the depth of Peter’s love.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter,

"Simon son of John,

do you **truly** love me **more than these**?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "**Feed my lambs.**"

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you **truly** love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "**Take care of my sheep.**"

John 21:15-16

Three denials suggested a broken relationship.

[Worship] Peter – Feed my Sheep (2)

Peter has to verify his love three times.

The third time he said to him,

"Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was **hurt** because Jesus asked him the third time,

"Do you love me?"

He said,

"Lord, you know all things;
you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "**Feed my sheep...**

John 21:17

Jesus directed Peter's love to other people.

True Love comes from True Worship

True love spreads out and expands over everyone.

This means that if we love God, then we love others.

The more we love God,

the more we will love our spouse and family.

They should not feel competition.

If you find someone with **true love,**

it won't be just for you!

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We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

The battle between Good and Evil has been evident in several of the encounters that have been discussed, especially with those of the hypocritical leaders.

He fought back with words on many occasions.

He fought back physically in the cleansing of the temple.

His enemies could only touch Him when He allowed them to.

[Good/Evil] Satanic Forces (1)

The forces of evil are real and have personalities.

The great **dragon** was hurled down -- that ancient **serpent** called the **devil**, or **Satan**, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his **angels** with him. Revelation 12:9

And the **angels** who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home -- these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. Jude 1:6

... when you followed the ways of this world and of the **ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient Ephesians 2:2

Their attitude is one of selfish disobedience.

[Good/Evil] Satanic Forces (2)

Many demons were cast out during Jesus' ministry.

The seventy-two returned with joy and said,

"Lord, even the **demons** submit to us in your name."

He replied,

"I saw **Satan** fall like lightning from heaven.

Luke 10:17-18

... for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:14

Satan, the leader or dictator of **devils**, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael.

C.S. Lewis

Jesus was never confused about their identity, and they were forced to tell the truth about His.

[Good/Evil] Temptation (1)

Jesus was tempted by Satan after being claimed by God.

As Jesus was coming up out of the water,
he saw heaven being **torn** open
and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven:

**"You are my Son, whom I love;
with you I am well pleased."**

At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert,
and he was in the desert **forty** days,
being tempted by **Satan**.

He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Mark 1:10-13

What does the presence of the wild animals mean?

[Good/Evil] Temptation (2)

Jesus was armed for battle by the Spirit.

Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was **led** by the Spirit in the desert to be tempted by the devil.

After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was **hungry**.

The **tempter** came to him and said,

"If you are the Son of God,
tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is **written**:

'Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:1-4, Luke 4:1-4

Satan preys on
His current
obvious
weakness

Jesus counters using the Word of God.

[Good/Evil] Temptation (3)

Satan attacks physical needs first.

**Then the devil took him to the holy city
and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.**

**"If you are the Son of God," he said,
"throw yourself down. For it is written:
"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."**

Jesus answered him,

**Satan now attacks
with scripture**

"It is also written:

'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Matthew 4:5-7, Luke 4:9-12

But Jesus again counters using the Word of God.

[Good/Evil] Temptation (4)

Satan then moves on to spiritual needs.

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him **in an instant** all the kingdoms of the world.

And he said to him,

"I will give you all their authority and splendor,

"if you will bow down and worship me."

for it has been given to me,

and I can give it to anyone I want to.

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, **Satan!**

For it is **written**: Satan gives his best attack on pride and ego.

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

Matthew 4:8-10, Luke 4:5-8

Jesus never forsakes the Word of God in His defense.

[Good/Evil] Temptation (5)

**Satan only left him temporarily –
He continued the tempting later.**

**When the devil had finished all this tempting,
he left him **until** an opportune time,
and angels came and attended him.**

Jesus returned to Galilee **in the power of the Spirit,
and news about him spread
through the whole countryside.**

Matthew 4:11, Luke 4:13-14

**Jesus was still full of the Spirit (undiminished)
after the encounter was over.**

[Good/Evil] Betrayal and Arrest (1)

Satan entered Judas, who betrayed Jesus.

**While he was still speaking a crowd came up,
and the man who was called Judas,
one of the Twelve,
was leading them.**

**He approached Jesus to kiss him,
but Jesus asked him,**

"Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Luke 22:47-48

An evil act was announced with an intimate gesture.

[Good/Evil] Betrayal and Arrest (2)

The disciples were ready to fight.

**When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen,
they said,**

"Lord, should we strike with our swords?"

**And one of them struck the servant of the high priest,
cutting off his right ear.**

But Jesus answered,

"No more of this!"

And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Luke 22:49-51

Malchus encountered Peter's sword, then Jesus' healing.

[Good/Evil] Betrayal and Arrest (3)

Jesus encountered a vicious mob.

**Then Jesus said to the chief priests,
the officers of the temple guard, and the elders,
who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion,
that you have come with swords and clubs?
Every day I was with you in the temple courts,
and you did not lay a hand on me.
But this is your hour -- when darkness reigns."
Then seizing him, they led him away
and took him into the house of the high priest.**

Luke 22:52-54

He allowed the evil to get ahead temporarily.

[Good/Evil] Betrayal and Arrest (4)

John's version adds more detail.

**Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place,
because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.
So Judas came to the grove,
guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials
from the chief priests and Pharisees.
They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.
Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him,
went out and asked them,
"Who is it you want?"**

John 18:2-4

Jesus steps out boldly to face them.

[Good/Evil] Betrayal and Arrest (5)

John's version adds more detail.

"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said.

(And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

When Jesus said,

"I am he,"

they drew back and fell to the ground.

John 18:2-6

The encounter caused his enemies to fall over.

This should have included Judas, too!

[Good/Evil] Betrayal and Arrest (6)

**Jesus doesn't take advantage of the opportunity,
but pursues the subject of their purpose.**

Again he asked them,

"Who is it you want?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

"I told you that I am he," Jesus answered.

"If you are looking for me, then let these men go."

**This happened so that the words he had spoken
would be fulfilled:**

"I have not lost one of those you gave me."

John 18:7-9

Jesus' concern was for His own people.

[Good/Evil] Betrayal and Arrest (7)

The disciples are ready to defend their friend.

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?"

And one of them [Simon Peter] struck the servant of the high priest [Malchus], cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, "No more of this!"

And he **touched the man's ear and healed him.**

Jesus commanded Peter,

"Put your sword away!

Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Luke 22:49-51 and John 18:10-11

The disciples' encounter shifts from the mob to Jesus.

[Good/Evil] Betrayal and Arrest (8)

The disciples ran away in fear.

Then everyone deserted him and fled.

**A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment,
was following Jesus.**

**When they seized him,
he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.**

Mark 14:50-52

**Jesus was bound by the soldiers and delivered to:
the high priest, all the chief priests,
elders and teachers of the law, the whole Sanhedrin,
Pilate, and Herod.**

Peter and John followed incognito.

There was no one to stand up for Jesus.

**History is the record of an encounter
between character and circumstances.**

Donald Creighton

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

We avoid other encounters that make us do our duty.

Peanuts Cartoon

We should not fear that which is expected of us.

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[Good/Evil] Crucifixion (1)

The entire trial process was a sham, but Jesus let it go.

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?"

Pilate asked.

They **all** answered,

"Crucify him!"

"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the **louder**,

"Crucify him!"

Matthew 27:22-23

The Jews kept screaming until Pilate gave up.

[Good/Evil] Crucifixion (2)

Jesus chose to lay his life down for us.

... I lay down my life –
only to take it up again.

No one takes it from me,
but I lay it down of my own accord.

I have **authority** to lay it down
and **authority** to take it up again.

This **command** I received from my Father."

John 10:17-18

The Jews thought that they were victorious,
But in truth they accommodated the will of Jesus.

[Good/Evil] Crucifixion – Physical Abuse (1) ²⁴

Jesus was abused further after the flogging of Pilate.

**Then the governor's soldiers... stripped him
and put a scarlet robe on him,
and then twisted together a crown of thorns
and set it on his head.**

**They put a staff in his right hand
and knelt in front of him and mocked him.**

"Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.

**They spit on him, and took the staff
and struck him on the head again and again.**

Matthew 27:27-30

These encounters indicate only part of the battle.

[Good/Evil] Crucifixion – Simon (1)

Simon was just an on-looker from out-of-town.

**After they had mocked him,
they took off the robe
and put his own clothes on him.**

Then they led him away to crucify him.

**As they were going out,
they met a man from Cyrene,
named Simon,
and they forced him to carry the cross.**

Matthew 27:31-32

How could he forget this encounter?

[Good/Evil] Crucifixion -- Onlookers (1)

It was easy to abuse the man on the cross.

Those who passed by **hurled insults** at him,
shaking their heads and saying,
"You who are going to destroy the temple
and build it in three days, save yourself!
Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"
In the same way the chief priests,
the teachers of the law and the elders **mocked** him.
"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself!
He's the King of Israel!
Let him come down now from the cross,
and we will believe in him.

Matthew 27:39-42

The people always wanted one more miracle.

[Good/Evil] Crucifixion -- Thieves (1)

Two robbers were crucified with him,
one on his right and one on his left. **Matthew 27:38**

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him:
"Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him.

"Don't you fear God," he said,

"since you are under the same sentence?"

We are punished justly,

for we are getting what our deeds **deserve**.

But this man has done nothing wrong."

Luke 23:39-41

One was sarcastic, but one recognized Christ.

[Good/Evil] Crucifixion -- Thieves (2)

**Two robbers were crucified with him,
one on his right and one on his left. Matthew 27:38**

**Then he said,
"Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom."**

**Jesus answered him,
"I tell you the truth,
today you will be with me in paradise."
Luke 23:39-43**

Jesus promised this thief a part of the kingdom.

[Good/Evil] Crucifixion -- Thieves (3)

**Two robbers were crucified with him,
one on his right and one on his left. Matthew 27:38**

Matthew's account is a bit different.

**The thieves also,
which were crucified with him,
cast the same in his teeth.**

Matthew 27:44

**The one at first taunted,
but as the encounter with Christ continued,
and he saw how Christ reacted,
he had a change of heart.**

[Good/Evil] Crucifixion -- Thieves (4)

Two robbers were crucified with him,
one on his right and one on his left. **Matthew 27:38**

Think of the comfort that Jesus felt
from the thief on the cross.

He was basically the **only one** who stood up for him
since the apostles ran.

Wonder if James and John (and their mother) were ready
to take the places to the right and left hand of Christ now?

[Good/Evil] Crucifixion – Jesus' View (1)

What did Christ think about through the pain of the cross?

**He did not think of vengeance –
it vanished from His viewpoint.**

He thought of others –

The thief

His mother

His disciples

His God

even His enemies.

**He came to serve those
who crucified Him.**

It took the Love of God to forgive those who crucified Him.

[Good/Evil] War in Heaven (1)

Revelation presents the spiritual war in heaven.

I saw heaven standing open
and there before me was a **white** horse,
whose rider is called **Faithful** and **True**.
With justice he judges and makes war.
His eyes are like blazing fire,
and on his head are **many crowns**.
He has a **name** written on Him that no one knows
but He Himself.
He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood,
and his **name** is the Word of God.

Revelation 19:11-13

Satan will be subdued and put him in the Abyss.

[Good/Evil] War in Heaven (2)

Christ will lead the army against Evil.

**The armies of heaven were following him,
riding on **white** horses and dressed in fine linen,
white and clean.**

**Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword
with which to strike down the nations.**

"He will rule them with an iron scepter."

**He treads the winepress
of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.**

On his robe and on his thigh he has this **name written:**

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:11-16

The war will be won by Good.

- **In the beginning**
- **Healing / Salvation**
- **Relationships / Family / Kingdom**
- **Leadership / Authority**
- **Judgment**
- **Change / Conversion**
- **Worship**
- **Battle between Good and Evil**
- **Indirect**

We will find many similarities and contrasts in these situations

Some encountered Jesus indirectly, or without knowing.

Nathaniel encountered Jesus while under a tree.

John 1:48

The centurion knew that Jesus did not need to be physically present to encounter His power.

Matthew 8:5, Luke 7:6

Paul had a gentler encounter when Jesus appeared to him to tell him that he would bear witness in Rome.

Acts 23:11

We may encounter Him ourselves without knowing.

[Indirect] Emmaus (1)

After the resurrection, people drifted back home.

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but **they were kept from recognizing him.**

Luke 24:13-16

What a way for Jesus to watch them and listen to them without them knowing that He was there.

[Indirect] Emmaus (2)

He asked them as if He didn't know.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, asked him,

"Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

Luke 24:17-19

He stopped them in their tracks (and in their sorrow).

[Indirect] Emmaus (3)

They told him about Jesus of Nazareth, a powerful prophet.

They had hoped that he would be the Messiah.
He had been crucified, but there was word he was alive.

He said to them, "How foolish you are,
and how **slow of heart** to believe
all that the prophets have spoken!
Did not the Christ have to suffer these things
and then enter his glory?"
And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets,
he explained to them what was said
in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:25-27

They learn now from a different perspective.

[Indirect] Emmaus (4)

He “acted” as if he would go further to test them.

As they approached the village to which they were going,
Jesus **acted** as if he were going farther.

But they urged him **strongly**,

"Stay with us, for it is nearly evening;
the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them.

Luke 24:27-30

Their sense of hospitality was very strong.

[Indirect] Emmaus (5)

Something about breaking the bread made them realize.

When he was at the table with them,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it
and began to give it to them.

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
and he disappeared from their sight.

They asked each other,

**"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he talked with us on the road
and opened the Scriptures to us?"**

There was an inner
encounter first.

Luke 24:30-32

Suddenly, Jesus showed Himself fully to them.

[Indirect] Emmaus (5)

They retraced their steps to proclaim His resurrection.

**While they were still talking about this,
Jesus himself stood among them and said to them,
"Peace be with you."**

**They were startled and frightened,
thinking they saw a ghost.**

**He said to them... Touch me and see;
a ghost does not have flesh and bones,
as you see I have..."**

they still did not believe it

because of joy and amazement...

Luke 24:36-41

Then he opened their minds so they could understand.

[Indirect] Encounter through others (1)

God will separate the sheep from the goats.

**All the nations will be gathered before him,
and he will separate the people one from another
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.**

He will put the sheep on his **right
and the goats on his **left**.**

Matthew 25:32-33

God draws the dividing line according to His standard.

[Indirect] Encounter through others (2)

24

God provides a parallel commentary (Matthew 25:34-46).

"Then the King will say to those on his right (**left**)...

'Come, you who are **blessed** by my Father;
take your inheritance,
the kingdom prepared for you
since the creation of the world.

'Depart from me, you who are **cursed**,
into the eternal fire
prepared for the devil and his angels.

Each group has its own assigned place, specially prepared.

[Indirect] Encounter through others (3)

God provides a parallel commentary.

**For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.'**

For I was hungry and you gave me **nothing to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me **nothing** to drink,
I was a stranger and you did **not** invite me in,
I needed clothes and you did **not** clothe me,
I was sick and in prison and you did **not** look after me.'**

Jesus redirects our treatment of others to Him.

[Indirect] Encounter through others (4)

Those in each group respond.

**'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
or thirsty and give you something to drink?**

**When did we see you a stranger and invite you in,
or needing clothes and clothe you?**

When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

**'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison,
and did **not** help you?'**

**In their own concept of Good and Evil,
they cannot understand their sentence.**

[Indirect] Encounter through others (5)

The King has a final reply and summary.

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth,
whatever you did for one of the least
of these brothers of mine,
you did for me.'

"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth,
whatever you did **not** do for one of the least
of these,
you did **not** do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life."

We must treat the "**least**" person as we would Jesus Christ.

- **Introduction**
- **The Encounter Image**
- **Encounters with God**
- **Encounters with Christ**
- **Encounters with others**
- **Summary**

**I wonder how I should feel
if I should go to heaven and meet
one of those
whom I ought to have known
in the church on earth,
and the Lord should see that we are **strangers!**
Grace Livingston Hill**

Encounters of note

What dramatic encounter do you have to offer?

The best and worst graduate class (and teacher) at UTSI.

Worst: Ordinary Differential Equations, first semester

Best: Ordinary Differential Equations, second semester

Same teacher: Dr. Kenneth Kimble!

The difference was the setting and number of students.

Encounters with Christ or God through others²⁵

The 12 and the 70 sent out by Christ
(Matthew 10:5ff, Luke 10:1ff)

**He trusted them to be
the advance team**

Entertaining angels unawares
(examples: Abraham, Lot, etc)

**You should keep a
list of your personal
angels**

Story: “Mister, are you God!?”

Do not forget to entertain **strangers**,
for by so doing some people
have entertained **angels** without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2

Encounters with Christ or God through us (1)²⁵

We are therefore Christ's **ambassadors**,
as though God were making his appeal through us.

2 Corinthians 5:20a

But thanks be to God,
who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ
and **through us** spreads everywhere the fragrance
of the knowledge of him.

For we are to God the aroma of Christ
among those who are being saved
and those who are perishing.

2 Corinthians 2:14-15

Encounters with Christ or God through us (2)²⁵

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?

Or do we need, like some people,

letters of recommendation to you or from you?

You yourselves are our letter,

written on our hearts,

known and read by everybody.

You show that **you are a letter from Christ,**

the result of our ministry,

written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God,

not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:1-3

Christ's Rules for Encounters with Others (1) ²⁵

Do not go among the Gentiles

or enter any town of the Samaritans.

Go rather to the **lost sheep** of Israel.

As you go, **preach** this message:

'The kingdom of God (heaven) is near you.'

Heal the sick, **raise** the dead, **cleans**e those who have leprosy,
drive out demons.

Freely you have received, freely **give**.

Do not **take** along any gold or silver or copper in your belts;
take no purse or bag or sandals or extra tunic or a staff for
the journey;

for the worker is worth his keep.

Do not **greet** anyone on the road.

**What did they preach?
Repentance, like
John the Baptist?**

The 12 and 70: Matthew 10:6-14 and Luke 10:2-12

Christ's Rules for Encounters with Others (2) ²⁵

Whatever town or village you enter,

search for some worthy person there

and **stay** at his house until you leave,

eating and drinking whatever they give you.

... first **say**, 'Peace to this house.'

If the home is deserving, If a man of peace is there,
your peace will rest on him;

if not, it will return to you.

If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words,

go into its streets and **say**,

'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet

we **wipe (shake)** off against you.

The 12 and 70: Matthew 10:6-14 and Luke 10:2-12

Christ's Rules for Encounters with Others (3) ²⁵

You have heard that it was said,

'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'

But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person.

If someone strikes you on the right cheek,

turn to him the other also.

And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic,

let him have your cloak as well.

If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

Give to the one who asks you,

and do not turn away

from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Matthew 5:38-42

Our encounters must reflect the love of God.

Encounters with others because of Christ (1) ²⁵

Dividing some relationships, as choices are made.

All men will hate you because of me,
but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.
Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth.
I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.
For I have come to **turn**
'a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law –
a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

Matthew 10:22, 34-36

Not cause, but effect.

Encounters because of Christ (2)

We must have the proper perspective:
Who do we love most?

Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me
is not worthy of me;
anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me
is not worthy of me;
and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me
is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:37-38

Our relationship with God takes precedence.

With graphic detail and penetrating insight,
John takes us on a storybook journey
through Jesus' encounters with human beings.

All kinds of people:

- religious people like Nicodemus
- righteous people like the Pharisees
- abandoned people like the woman at the well
- frightened people like the woman caught in adultery
- despairing people like Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus
- lonely people like the man by the pool
- mistreated people like the blind beggar by the road

Lynn Anderson

Jesus' Four Basic Peopling Principles

Jesus was available.

Jesus was sensitive.

Jesus was helpful.

Jesus was creative.

Lynn Anderson

Jesus Adapted to Each Encounter

Jesus encounters no two people in the same way...

Wherever Jesus went, He was surrounded by people.

He couldn't make it to the market without touching the sick people and well people, rich and poor, young and old, people from all walks of life.

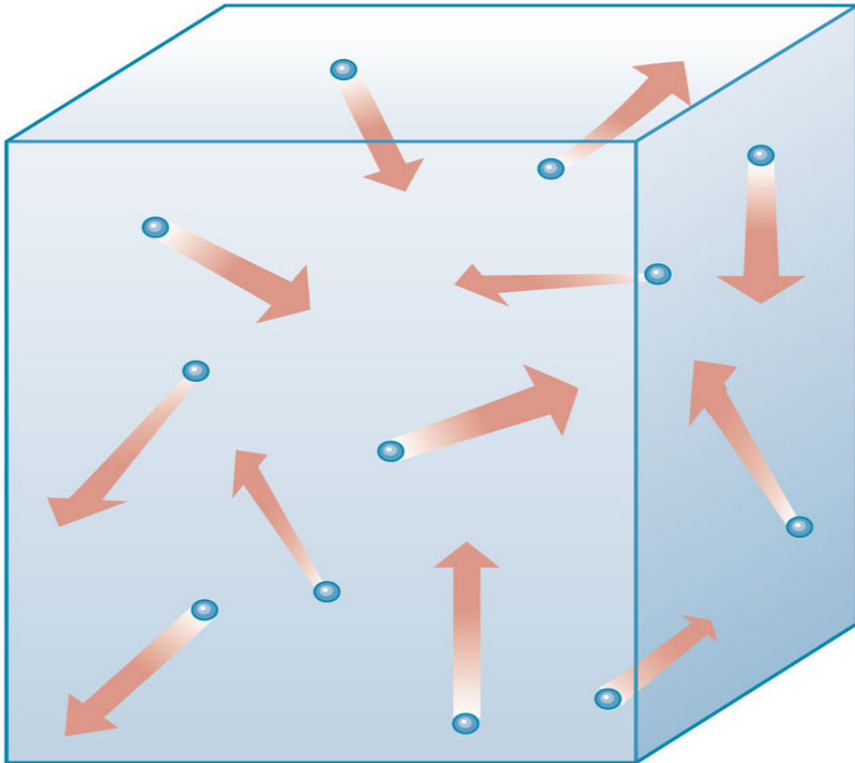
Jesus was always in the midst of people.

Yet **each was precious, and a careful reading of the gospels impresses us with Jesus' creativity in tailoring His communication style not merely to each audience, but even to each individual He encountered.**

Lynn Anderson

Our encounters with other people are continuous and unavoidable

molecules



Lottery ping pong machine²⁵



Encounters with other people

We must not avoid contact with people.

Do we avoid people / encounters?

- the poor
- the smelly
- the rich
- the snobs
- the 'sinners'



We don't like to see a football player who avoids contact.

Encounters with other people

There are Biblical instances of this avoidance.

The man robbed and beaten in the story of the Good Samaritan was avoided by the “religious” people who encountered him (the Levite and the priest).

The Pharisees avoided contact with the “sinners”, and would not eat with them.

They also condemned Jesus for doing so.

Everyone avoided the lepers and the dead, but Jesus touched them and healed them.

Jesus claimed that these were the very people that we should **not avoid.**

We are the “least” in someone’s eyes.

How do people feel after an encounter with you?²⁵

Are they like your relatives (sometimes)?

Glad to see you come and glad to see you go!

Do people come away with hearts encouraged
and with and steps lifted?

Jack Exum; making people feel better in the hospital
(transferring feelings)

Barnabas (his name meant “Son of Encouragement”)

Therefore, **strengthen** your feeble arms and weak knees.

"Make level paths for your feet,"

so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Concern for others

Hebrews 12:12-13

Some people leave destruction in their wake.

Encounters should build up people

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace
and to mutual **edification**.

Romans 14:19

Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to **build him up**.

Romans 15:2

... let us consider how we may

spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

... let us **encourage** one another

Hebrews 10:24-25

Therefore encourage one another and **build each other up**,
just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Through my being with you again your **joy** in Christ Jesus
will **overflow** on account of me.

Phillipians 1:26

An Encounter may tear us down to better build up ²⁵

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.
But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.
And **when you have turned back,**
strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:31-2

Paul's advice on encountering other people 25

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of God.

Do not cause anyone to stumble,

whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God –
even as I try to please everybody in every way.

For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many,
so that they may be saved.

Follow my example,

as I follow the example of Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

The Church Encounters the World

The Church (God's Kingdom) encounters the community.
Are we like a billiard ball in a precision shot,
or a bull in a china shop

The Inquisition

Denominationalistic Wars

Daniel 2:34 – Rock of God

image → Revelation → impact of church

The church is the body (extension) of Christ

Why has the world not
turned to Christ?



...If you do well,
will you not be accepted?
And if you do not do well,
sin lies at the door.
And its desire is for you,
but **you should rule over it.**"

Genesis 4:7

We have battled this encounter from the beginning.

The devil prowls about like a roaring lion... 25



We also have encounters with Satan --
going about as a roaring lion,
not as a red devil with a pitchfork.

What would you do if you encountered Christ?²⁵ (Directly)

Would you recognize Him?

Would you crucify Him?

Would you worship Him?

Ultimately, we will all have an encounter with Christ...
(every knee shall bow)

You will bow, but which side will you be on?
Will you be ready?

The Old Testament is all about encounters with
God

The New Testament is all about encounters with
Christ

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

An encounter with Christ is an encounter with God

The Bible records encounters between Christ and others

We must encounter Christ, and recognize Him as our Savior

In our encounters with others,
we must treat the **least** of them as we would Christ.