

## More than Talk Program 166

### He Made Just One Like You!

Listen up! There's no one like you. Others may have your name. But no one else is "you". That's because God made just one like you. So don't ever think you are nothing special. You are! You're special to the One whose opinion counts above all others—God Himself. Today on More Than Talk—"He made just one like you!"

#### Page 1 - God Had You in Mind

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning, God..." No more sublime words could be used to open God's desire to reveal Himself to man. The Creator goes on to tell His masterpiece of creation - people like you and me - how it all began. Our galaxy alone contains a hundred billion suns. And astronomers report that our universe holds more than a hundred billion galaxies! Yet God effortlessly calls each star by name (Isaiah 40:26) as they operate in perfect order in space so vast we measure time in light years - 186,000 miles per second.

Is God telling us the genesis of all things only so we will put things in proper order? Or is He revealing a glimpse of His omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence so that we will order our lives in proper perspective?! It is this glorious God who created the universe who also created you. Every hair on your head is numbered - even as they change. Every thought is known - even before you think it. And the whole theme behind "In the beginning God..." is God's desire to love you perfectly and have you love Him in return.

My prayer: "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. And as You reveal Yourself to me, help me not to conceal myself from You. What does it mean to love You? Make that my greatest quest in life!"

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### **Page 2 - Earth's Most Valuable Possession**

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4

Jesus is about to face the full onslaught of His vicious and hateful adversary. On three separate occasions Satan will sneer at the Lord of glory with one of hell's favorite words - "If." He will do anything to get Jesus to doubt who He is, to doubt the Father's care and to take an easier path than the Cross. Each time Jesus beats the devil down with "It is written" as He uses the Word of God - in context - to resist Satan's lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life. The doomed king of hell is forced to retreat, as he always does, in the face of superior firepower.

Jesus' handling of Satan is more than an account of His earthly experiences. It is an exact blueprint for you and me in our own battles against the tempter. He knows you and where you are most vulnerable. And he waits - even patiently - for the moment to pounce. He can even make sin appear as mere human weakness to be excused, unless you know better because you live deep in the Scriptures. Your most valuable possession on earth is not your home, bank account, safe deposit box or whatever else. It's your Bible - God's very words to guide you through every struggle you will encounter and every sin Satan will dangle before you. Read and believe all of the Word. Memorize much of the Word. Apply the Word in your daily walk. And, like Jesus, quote the Word loud and clear when Satan draws near. He will flee from you now, just as he did then!

My prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to love and appreciate the greatest gift You have placed in my hands - the Scriptures. Oh my Savior, teach me to live by every word of God!"

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### **Page 3 - The Cost of Passing the Buck**

"And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Genesis 3:12

Adam didn't have an example in how to pass the buck. He didn't need one. Such a sin comes easily and naturally to a heart running from God. Eve and Adam had exchanged God's glory for sin's nudity, and Adam couldn't face up to his guilt without first blaming God. And Eve caught on quickly - putting it back on the serpent.

But the devil doesn't make us do anything. He doesn't have that power. He can only suggest - only tempt. We make the choices.

Is your conscience burdened with sins that you know have followed you into the new year? Have you mastered the first couples' art of passing the buck, "I know I sinned, but..." "Yes I hate that person, but..." "This would not have happened if...?" Get free from that hurting conscience by getting honest with the Lord.

Take time to take inventory - even making a list of your sins for you and God alone. Ask the Holy Spirit to point out what grieves Him, accept full responsibility by making full confession, and then write I John 1:9 (His promise to forgive and cleanse what we confess) and burn the paper. Then never pass the buck again when you sin.

My prayer: "Father, I know the only sins You can't forgive are those I refuse to confess and forsake. Help me always to put the blame for my sins where it belongs - on me and not on others."

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### **Page 4 - Who Gets to See God?**

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

The Sermon on the Mount - Matthew chapters five, six and seven- is really the Bible in a nutshell. It begins with the blessing God confers upon the "poor in spirit" (humble and broken) - 5:3 - and ends with a warning to build our lives on the rock of God's Word. Of the one hundred eleven verses in these three chapters, no text is more important than our scripture for today. God is holy, and He commands His children to be the same. God's grace is not an excuse to sin but Christ's enabling power to live moment by moment with a pure heart. This is not merely an external purity that others can see - such as a man's faithfulness to his wife. It is also an internal purity of heart and mind that the God-who- sees-all must approve. The Holy Spirit (notice His first name!) is determined to conform us to Christ Himself. That means purity in thought. In purpose. In motive. In lifestyle. You can't accomplish this in human strength. Trying to will only make you proud - and pride is like mud to a pure heart.

How then does one begin to desire intensely a pure heart - which is the heart of Jesus? By taking regular journeys to the Cross - through meditation and prayer - and seeing the blood of God's Perfect Son falling drop by drop to the ground - for you. Thorns piercing His scalp. Spit from mocking mouths drying on His face. Ten thousand angels gasping in wonder and amazement - waiting for His call to destroy the world and set Him free. A call that would never come - because of His love to redeem you and me. Who could witness such love and not cry for a pure heart? Who could feel a drop of His pain and not repent immediately from any sin that would disturb the sweet peace that comes from a pure heart?

Children can teach us much. A father was concerned when his young son heard a Russian cosmonaut brag arrogantly: "Everywhere I flew in space, I could not see God!" The dad needn't have worried. The lad answered, "Daddy, the reason he couldn't see God is because he doesn't have a pure heart!" And that, my friend, is our greatest incentive and reward for crying out for - and cultivating carefully - a pure heart; the promise that we shall see the face of God!

My prayer: "You could offer Your children no greater blessing than to see your wondrous face, my Father. Teach me through Your Word what glorifies or grieves You. Create in me a pure heart and help me to guard my heart with all diligence."

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### **Page 5 - And God's Choice Is...You!**

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15

We have heard often the theology of this scripture: God's intervention on behalf of fallen man - the seed of the woman signifying the virgin birth of the Messiah - the bruised heel of Messiah foretelling the agony of the suffering Servant - the bruised head of the serpent spelling the total crushing of Satan.

That's the "theology" of this amazing prophecy - but God wants you to experience the "thrill-ology" of it all. Here is love for you that knows no bounds - God coming in the person of the Son of God to free you from Satan's power and plan to destroy you. There is a war being waged for the soul of every person - including yours. This conflict is between "thy seed and her seed" - the devil and those who choose him versus Messiah Jesus, whose wondrous birth, life, death, resurrection and return to the Father all came about just to tell you that He loves you and chooses you as His seed - to be with Him forever. The eternal, all powerful, all present, all knowing God stepping from eternity into time in order to take you from sin's prison and draw you into His everlasting arms! Oh, the "thrill-ology" of it all!

My prayer: "Oh my Father, they say this verse is too wonderful for me 'to get it.' But I cry to 'get it' - to have you reveal Your incredible plan from eternity to redeem me for all of eternity - because I cry to love You so much more than I do!"