WEEK OF

JUNE 6, 2010

SMALL GROUP

BIBLE DISCUSSION

TOPIC: AFTER THE PARTY

Key Scriptures:
Rev. 3:14-22*20; Jer. 29:11-14a *13; John 6:26

Points to Make

- There are a number of ways people meet in our society.
- This often happens at a party, and there is careful preparation for these events. We must look just right, our best personality is on display and all our character flaws are well disguised.
- There are usually many people at these parties. We exchange smiles, handshakes and hugs and if there is more than just a casual interest, we exchange contact information.
- Many people are invited to the party, and some may show up uninvited, and mix in, hoping for something good to happen. In fact, some parties are pretty much open to anyone.
- But, what happens AFTER THE PARTY?
- Contact is made and a date and time is set to meet, as we take the next step to see if a longer term relationship is possible.
- The interesting thing about this next phase is that it's most often a very closed affair.
- Even on the night of the party, the first time you meet, there may be some transitional questions to take it to the next level: "Can I give you a ride home?" "Would you like to stop for a coffee? "Would you like to come in for a few minutes?"
- This is no longer a big, loud, or 'whosoever will may come' party. It's a party for two where people can actually take time to get to know each other, share experiences, and eventually even share their lives together in marriage.
- At one of the biggest Christian parties of our year: Youth Convention, Bro. Wayne Francis preached a message entitled "The Doctrine of Real Presence", in which he discussed Anne Rice's book: *Called Out Of Darkness, A Spiritual Confession,* which details her journey back to faith in Christ after many years away from God.
- "Real Presence" is what she experienced as she went back and sat alone in the sanctuary of her childhood church.
- The Lord wants every one of us to experience His real presence, but it's unlikely to be 'at the party'.
- Just as it is in developing intimate human relationships, the Real Presence of Jesus is most often experienced in private. No distractions, no need for show, no hindrances, no rush.

Sermon in a sentence: Seek to know Jesus in a close, intimate, personal way, in the secret place of your heart.

- Rev. 3:20 tells us that Jesus stands at the door and knocks, hoping you will open up and allow Him to enter.
- Jesus shows up everywhere you are and wants you to get to know Him. He wants to have a quiet, private conversation with you through His Word, prayer and the infilling of His Spirit. Open the door and let Him in!
- AFTER THE PARTY we need to get alone with Jesus and build a personal relationship with Him. It takes time. It means you'll have to choose Him over other people or activities.
- It means you'll have to give Him a place of exclusivity in your heart! But when you let Him in, and seek to really know Him, you WILL succeed!
- Those who seek the Lord simply for blessings won't have a lasting relationship. A one-sided affair, strictly for your benefit, won't amount to anything.
- Our desire today is simply to know Jesus for Himself, in a close, intimate, personal way.

Discussion Tools

- Wikipedia defines a party as "a gathering of people for the purpose of socializing, conversation, and recreation". What would your motivation be for going to a party?
- Think of someone you met at a party whose acquaintance has turned into a meaningful relationship. How has this relationship influenced your life?
- If you were invited to a party and you knew Jesus would be there, what would you do?
- Go back in time to the day you met Jesus. Where did you meet Him? Did you seek Him out and talk to Him? Share your experience with the group.
- Discuss how your relationship has developed since you met Jesus. When and where do you feel His Real Presence?

Prayer Time

Dear Jesus, I love you. My desire is simply to know you in a close, intimate, personal way. Amen.

ICE-BREAKER: What is the first thing that comes to mind when you receive an invitation to a party?

NOTES