

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA
Part XVII
Matthew 18:10-14

Introduction: As we recollect back to what God has done in the past, we can anticipate that He will to do it again in the present. In the 70's, we witnessed a tremendous move among disenfranchised young people who had "tuned out" on society. From a point of logic, these young people, who we referred to as "hippies," part of "the Woodstock generation," did not fit the profile of being the least bit interested in God. Suddenly, without any warning, they began to resonate to a sovereign move of the Holy Spirit. With their tie-dyed t-shirts, ragged jeans, beards, and long hair, they came to receive Jesus as Lord of their lives. To we "straights" who were not a part of the "pop culture" of that day, it didn't seem paradigmatically possible. It took some time for us to accept that they were sincere. They bought the largest Bibles they could find and brought them along wherever they would go. Their jean jackets had the name Jesus or a large cross emblazoned across the back.

I. God's magnificent idea

- A. God is not a respecter of persons. Luke 14:23. The church talks a good fight, but when it comes to reaching the undesirables of our society, we shirk back. We are afraid of contamination.
 - 1. The Bible is clear that the church must be open to everyone (Luke 14:13-14), not just those who would make ideal church members.
 - 2. Jesus gave His purpose for coming to earth in Luke 19:10.
 - 3. We were told by pastor friends that these young people would be the ruination of our church. They were wrong!
 - 4. One of the Hebrew names for God is "El Bethel" (God of the house of God). Genesis 35:7.
- B. God has revealed Himself to us in very special ways so that we can operate in confidence.
 - 1. Is He *Elohe Chaseddi*? Answer: Yes, He is the God of mercy and He has had mercy on my soul. Psalm 59:10. "For my merciful God shall meet me..."
 - 2. Is He *El Elyon*? Answer: Yes, He is the *Most High* God over all of Heaven and earth. Genesis 14:19. "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of Heaven and earth..."
 - 3. Is He *El Gibbor*? Answer: Yes, He is the Mighty God. Isaiah 9:6. "...Unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders..."
 - 4. Is He *Elohe Mauzi*? Yes, He is the God of my strength, and when I am weak, I say I am strong. Psalm 43:2. "For You are the God of my strength..."
 - 5. Is He *El Nose*? Answer: Yes, He is the God who has forgiven all my sins. Psalm 99:8. "...You were to them God-who-forgives..."
 - 6. Is He *Elohim Ozer*? Answer: Yes, He helps me in each step that I take. Psalm 54:4. "Behold, God is my Helper..."
 - 7. Is He *El Ra*? Answer: Yes, I am never alone. Genesis 16:13. "...You are the God who sees; for she said... I also have seen Him who sees me..."
 - 8. Is He *El Sal*? Answer: Yes, I can rely on His faithfulness. Psalm 42:9. "I will say to God my Rock..."
 - 9. Is He *El Simchath Gil*? Answer: Yes, He gives me joy unspeakable and full of glory. Psalm 43:4. "Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy."
 - 10. Is He *Yahweh Keren Yishi*? Answer: Yes, He is the assurance and strength of my salvation. Psalm 18:2. "The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer; my God, my Strength, in Whom I will trust."
 - 11. Is He *Yahweh Mephalti*? Answer: Yes, He delivers me from the evil one. 2nd Samuel 22:2. "The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress and my Deliverer..."
 - 12. Is He *Yahweh Zimrath*? Answer: Yes, He gives me a song in my heart. Isaiah 12:2. "Behold God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for Yah, the Lord, is my strength and my *song*..." Psalm 40:3. "He has put a new *song* in my mouth..."

Conclusion: Our lives should revolve around God. He is all in all to us and will never leave us. Knowing Him is to know life and to know it more abundantly. Now is the time to grow in the knowledge of the Lord and to become productive for Him.