

“Understanding Yourself”

John 8:21-30

If you're like me, there are some people you know who are hard to understand. I mean, they do things that make no sense to you or me. We may ask ourselves, “what are they thinking,” or “why are they doing that?” But now let's ask a different question; “do you always understand yourself and the choices you make?” Ah, that's a different question isn't it.

Hello friend, I'm J. Mark Horst, your host and I welcome you to *Hope for Today*. And today on this broadcast, our Bible teacher, the late, Dr. J. Otis Yoder, will examine this subject of “Understanding Yourself.”

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On today's broadcast of *Hope for Today*, we're continuing our study in the Gospel of John. So, I urge you to stay tuned. In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will present today's teaching, “Understanding Yourself.” But before he does that, let's pray.

Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you for giving my friend and me the privilege of meeting together around your Word. Thank you that we can open the Holy Book of God and study a portion of it to learn more about you.

And now, Father, as Dr. Yoder comes to open the Word for us, I pray that you will open our hearts to the truth so that we can better understand ourselves. I pray for my listening friend to understand the importance of seeing him or herself as God sees them. I pray this in His name, Amen.

Several weeks ago I received a letter from a listener. She told me of her deep struggle of soul, until she came to call out to the Lord for rest and peace! God heard her. Yes, He did. When she needed help, she could call on the Lord and the Lord heard her.

What she needed was an understanding of herself. In fact, she needed to understand her need. That is what all of us need. Yet sometimes it seems we cannot reach it.

It was so in Jesus' day. As He met with the crowds, they struggled to understand Him. Their problem really was to understand themselves. Jesus was able to touch those areas of life

which are essential even for us today. We come to better understanding from the Scripture text, John 8:21-30, and the words of Jesus.

- 21 *Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.*
- 22 *Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.*
- 23 *And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.*
- 24 *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*
- 25 *Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.*
- 26 *I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.*
- 27 *They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.*
- 28 *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself: but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*
- 29 *29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*
- 30 *As he spake these words, many believed on him.*

Here are several **INSIGHTS** into human behavior to help us see ourselves as we are.

The First Insight is Unbelief Is the Roadblock.

Jesus issued a warning. He said, “You shall seek me, but you shall not find me, and you shall die in your sins.” He said, “Where I go, you cannot come.” Now that was a very solemn warning Jesus issued to these people.

He then went on to say, “If you do not believe that I am he you shall die in your sins.” So, Jesus stated a condition; a condition, my friend, beyond which there is no help. He said, “I am the Messiah and if you do not believe that I am He you shall die in your sins.”

The conclusion is that unbelief is the roadblock. There is no escape because Jesus made it very, very clear. There is only one way, believe that Jesus is He. Jesus said unbelief is a roadblock.

The Second Insight is Understanding Is the Doorway.

Then Jesus answered a question for them. They said, “Who are you?” He said, “I am the same one that I told you before.” I go back to verse twelve of this chapter and I find that Jesus there said, “I am the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.” I believe that Jesus answered their question with reference to that particular statement when they said, “Who are you?”

He said, “I am the same one I told you before. I am the light of the world.” And then Jesus made this statement: “I have much to say to you and I get my message from the true One, the One who sent me. I speak what He tells me to say but you do not understand. You do not understand.”

You see, I am pointing out to you that one of the insights into human behavior is that understanding is the doorway. On the one hand, unbelief is the roadblock. But on the other hand, understanding is the doorway to let you through. There is no other route.

Jesus was helping these people and us to realize that understanding is the doorway.

The Third Insight to human behavior is this: Unequal Is the Decisive Point.

Jesus made a prediction. He said, “When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know what I have said. When you have lifted up the Son of man then you shall know that I am He.” There was a time to come, Jesus predicted, when they would lift Him up.

Lifting Him up certainly must have brought to their minds the experience of their forefathers in the wilderness while coming from Egypt to the Holy Land. When the serpents got among them, Moses cried out unto the Lord. The Lord instructed Moses to make a brazen serpent and t it upon a pole. Everyone who looked at that serpent healed. Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of man then you shall know that I am He.” It was a very important prediction.

Then Jesus stated a very vital principal. He said, “The Father is with me, and I always do those things that please the Father.” Not another human being has ever been able to make such a statement. Nobody but Jesus has been able to say, “I do always those things that please the Father.”

That’s why I say unequal is a decisive point because He is not like you and me. No one is equal to Him. He stands above all others.

These insights should lead you to faith in Him. Are they not significant insights to the needs of human behavior, just like you and just like me? You can overcome the roadblock of unbelief by faith. You can enter the doorway of understanding by faith. You can resolve the decisive point by faith. He is the Messiah. Do you know Him? Do you believe in Him?

My friend, I hope this teaching has helped you to understand yourself better. The first thing we all need to understand is that without Jesus, we are lost. I don't mean lost in the woods or desert or some big city. No, I mean lost for eternity, separated from God the Father, lost in darkness forever! That is a horrible thing to think about. But Dr. Yoder showed us from the Scripture how we can be found, how we can have eternal life.

Now, if you were blessed by this teaching and would like an audio CD or a printed copy of it, just write and ask for the teaching "Understanding Yourself." We would be happy to send a copy to you as soon as we receive your request.

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "Understanding Yourself." I'd be happy to send one to you.

If you have questions about the Bible or how to live as a Christ-follower, we invite you to send those questions to us. We will take your questions to the Holy Scripture and find an answer. We want to help you grow in your understanding of God's Word and in your relationship with Him. So, write to us today. Here's the contact information again.

Send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, "Understanding Yourself." It's available in print or on an audio CD.

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study in John's Gospel. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.