

# ***The Need Meeter***

One of the most important lessons I learned in life was that God is a Need Meeter. It actually became clear to me in the context of one of my closest relationships to that point in life. (She was my best friend who later became my wife!)

I knew from the first year I knew her (our junior year of high school) that Jen was a woman I could marry. She loved Jesus, was fun to be with, had similar likes and dislikes in life (I found out after we were married that there were a lot more differences, too!) - basically - I knew I could marry her.

Life went on - Jen & I went to different schools after graduating high school. We had different paths to follow (or so it seemed at the time!) I would receive the occasional letter or phone call from her and would remember how much I knew she could be my wife if she wanted to be.

I moved back home to go to school there for my sophomore year of college. Still keeping in contact with Jen - and knowing that someday, we might be married. Now at this point, you might be thinking, "Were they *dating*?" The answer - no. We were the best

of friends, and had no intention of dating. In fact, she was dating other guys!

But you say, “You said you could *marry her!* How could you not have thought about dating her???”

To this question I must honestly say, “I don’t know.” I saw something in the “dating game” that I did not like. It all seemed very fake to me, very hurtful - I didn’t want any part of it. I knew that someday I wanted to be married and have kids (which God has graciously blessed me with!) but I did not want any part of dating.

So - I waited for God to move in Jen’s heart the way he had in mine.

WHAT?!?!

That’s what it felt like I was doing. I knew that I could commit to Jen in marriage, and I waited for her to know the same thing.

This is where the realization of God being a Need Meeter came in.

This time of waiting (roughly four years) was a great time for me and God to do some growing. Through the anguish of wanting something so badly that I couldn’t have, I learned that God’s timing is perfect.

Do you recall the story of Paul and his companions *not* being allowed to preach the gospel? It’s true! In Acts chapter 16<sup>1</sup>, Paul and his companions are TWICE turned away

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 16:6-10

by the Holy Spirit (once, he is called the Spirit of Jesus) from preaching the gospel.

Now hold on just a minute here! How can God have stopped them from doing a *great thing* like preaching the gospel to people who hadn't heard? Why would He want to do that?!?

It is possible to know the will of God without knowing the *timing* of God.

Paul and his traveling buddies knew that preaching was the right thing to do and yet God stopped them from doing it... TWICE! It ended up being a great thing, because instead of going North, Paul and his friends were sent further West, which some people feel was the reason that the gospel was spread as far West as it was!<sup>2</sup> AND - the regions they had attempted to go to were later addressed as churches in a letter sent by the apostle Peter!<sup>3</sup>

God's timing is surely the best. (This goes back to His role as Designer and Author of all that is. He knows what's best and *when* it's best!)

I learned that as I waited.

It was also during this time that I came upon the passage in Matthew<sup>4</sup> that describes God as what we call a "Need Meeter". Those

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<sup>2</sup> New Testament History. Reese, Gareth L. 1976 College Press, p.571

<sup>3</sup> 1 Peter 1:1

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 6:25-34

precise words are not written there, but the meaning is quite clearly conveyed by Jesus.

Jesus is addressing a group of people (actually, this is part of his famous “Sermon on the Mount”) concerning the issue of God’s provision. He uses two examples of needs and tells us not to worry about how we will meet them, because God will. His point, God cares for us.

The first need he presents is eating. I will also be the first to admit here that eating is a pretty important need! One can argue that in present-day America, we *need* cars. We might even say we *need* computers, more money, the phone, refrigerators, how about the greatest invention of them all - the MICROWAVE??? You could argue that life would cease to exist as we know it if we didn’t have the items listed above, but I’m not sure you could make a very good case for us *needing* all of these things.

However - we do *need* food.

Jesus compares our need for food with the “birds of the air”<sup>5</sup> and their need for food. Without any effort at all on their part, their needs are met! *GOD* provided all that they needed. Jesus emphasizes the importance that God places on us (made in His image) by saying that God will meet our needs even more than He does the birds of the air! That is

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<sup>5</sup> Matt 6:26

great, when we consider that their needs are totally, completely met!

In the second illustration, Jesus told them to, “Look at the lilies of the field.” He says that even the lilies, who are so temporary and do not even compare in value to mankind are clothed with greater splendor than King Solomon! If God provides in this way for them, how much more will He provide for us, the “apple of His eye?”<sup>6</sup>

Food and drink and clothing are certainly needs, and we are shown that just as God meets the same needs of His other creation, even more so will He meet the needs we have. Verse 33 sums up Jesus’ message by saying “Seek first *HIS* Kingdom and *HIS* righteousness and all these will be given to you.” There is the clincher. Jesus said, “Don’t go chasing after all these things! God will provide them *for you!* You concentrate on serving Him, putting Him first in your life, and God will take care of the rest!”

I took that lesson to heart and began removing the things I had put first in my life and put God there - first in my life. As I pondered this section of Scripture more I noticed that these needs really are needs! Up to that point in life, I had gotten the basic message, “God meets my needs if I put Him first.” However - I did not understand the

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<sup>6</sup> Psalm 17:8

significance of the needs I was to “not worry” about!!!

Don't look for food or water? Don't worry about clothes? I need those things!!!

Then I finally got the point.

God is more important than my most basic needs. It is not that He does not care about my needs, He is simply more important. If I realize that and seek Him first (His Kingdom and His Righteousness) He will take care of ALL my needs.

At this point we need to take you back to the previous chapter.

Do you remember the need that God saw - the *one need* Adam had in the garden?

Companionship!

Now if God saw that as a need - and we clearly see that He is a Need Meeter - do you think He would ignore it, or meet it?

With a resounding response, they cried, “MEET IT!!!”

Of course! That's what we saw Him do in the garden... that's what we see Jesus saying that He'll do in Matthew! God **IS** a **NEED MEETER!** He loves us - He made us - He knows us - He takes care of us!

But does this really apply to our relationships? And, exactly how does it?

We have seen already, in the model relationship (the first one that God created!) that God could and would and DID meet the need of companionship! So there is historical

evidence of God wanting to and being able to meet this need! And, from Matthew six we see that God is concerned with our basic physical needs and will meet those if we put Him first, so don't worry about it!

THIS is exactly how we apply this to relationships.

How does God want us to meet our needs? Not by trying to do so ourselves, but by putting *Him* straight ahead in our vision and not worrying about anything else!<sup>7</sup> Does that sound like the way that most people today meet their need for companionship - for relationships?

NO! We're taught that it's fun and good to go looking for the perfect person! We're taught that you actually are not complete until you have the perfect person! Sometimes, people will seek out dating relationships simply because that's what they're *supposed* to do!

This simply does not fit the idea of putting God first and letting HIM meet our needs.

In verses 31 and 32 of Matthew six, Jesus says don't go running around looking for ways to meet your needs - *that is what the PAGANS do*. Pretty strong words to a people that are called to be Holy. Holy of course meaning at it's root - different, other.

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<sup>7</sup> See Hebrews 12:1-2

It would seem then that the call to Christians in their relationships (which we have already seen is a *very real need*) would be to put God first in their lives and let HIM meet that need!

I learned that during my “waiting period” for Jen - and God gave me peace that someday HE would meet my need for a spouse, Jen or otherwise, HE would meet my need.

I began thinking, “What if my desire for a wife is just that, only my selfish desire? What if that’s not a *need* for me?” I would currently challenge that thinking, due to what we’ve established from Genesis. I believe that all people have the need for a spouse, God made us that way. But I also knew that God would take care of me if He wanted me to remain single.

It was at this point that I discovered something even greater than God meeting my needs. *GOD WANTS TO GIVE US THE DESIRES OF OUR HEART!!!!*

I read Psalm 37:4 one day. It said, in very simple language, “Delight yourself in the LORD and He will *give you the desires of your heart!*” I couldn’t believe what I had read. I had begun to resign myself to believing my “need” for a spouse was only my “desire” for a spouse. What I read said God wanted to not only meet my needs, but also my *desires!!!*

Do you see the similarities?



**Seek first God - all these will be added.**

***Delight in God - he'll give you your desires!***

To make a little more sense of this, it would seem that when we are delighting ourselves in God, the desires of our heart would be pure, holy - they would be HIS desires. So, the verse certainly makes sense... **AND it's wonderful!**

We serve a God who not only wants to meet our NEEDS but He would love to give us the DESIRES of our heart!

Jesus said elsewhere, "Which of you if your son asks for bread would give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish would give him a snake? If you then, though you are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?"<sup>8</sup> James calls God the giver of all good and perfect gifts.<sup>9</sup>

Our God is a NEED MEETER. All He asks (for our sake, not His) is that we trust Him to do that. Step one on our way to more healthy relationships - relationships the way God designed them - is to rely totally on Him to provide the perfect "meeter" of our need.

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<sup>8</sup> Matt 7:9-11

<sup>9</sup> James 1:17