

## Sermon: The meeting on the journey, 9.7.2023, Martin Pleva

I would love to speak about my first and last meeting with God, hoping that I will be one with the Spirit, and that the Word will speak to at least one of you...

Let's start with my first meeting with God

\*English camp ☒ Denny ☒ Fusion - \*Feelings (Question for people who attend the Fusion camp: How did you feel at the camp?) \*Did you feel something about the leaders... some sort of inner peace! Now I know what that specific "inner peace" is and why I feel so good in the Fusion.

**Gospel according to John 1:1-14** - *"1 From the first he was the Word, and the Word was in relation with God and was God. 2 This Word was from the first in relation with God. 3 All things came into existence through him, and without him nothing was. 4 What came into existence in him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light goes on shining in the dark; it is not overcome by the dark. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came for witness, to give witness about the light, so that all men might have faith through him. 8 He himself was not the light: he was sent to give witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to every man, was then coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, the world which came into being through him, but the world had no knowledge of him. 11 He came to the things which were his and his people did not take him to their hearts. 12 To all those who did so take him, however, he gave the right of becoming children of God--that is, to those who had faith in his name: 13 Whose birth was from God and not from blood, or from an impulse of the flesh and man's desire. 14 And so the Word became flesh and took a place among us for a time; and we saw his glory--such glory as is given to an only son by his father--saw it to be true and full of grace."*

I used to walk in the dark. I was reaching for things I didn't need... Until I found a place that was shining with light. It was something I have never experienced before. I met completely different people who were able to have fun without alcohol. I felt included. I felt seen and wanted.

Question for people who don't attend the Fusion: Have you ever experienced anything like this? So, what was up with the leaders? Why were they so nice to me? Why were they interested in me? It was God. They wouldn't be like that without God. Fusion wouldn't be like that without God. Please, believe me.

\*outside world

I want to read with you: **Gospel according to John 6:44-45 (Jesus speaks):** *"44 No man is able to come to me if the Father who sent me does not give him the desire to come: and I will take him up from the dead on the last day. 45 The writings of the prophets say, And they will all have teaching from God. Everyone whose ears have been open to the teaching of the Father comes to me."*

Maybe you have experienced something like me. Maybe you are experiencing it right now. Maybe God is calling you right now. He calls you by your name so that he can save you, so that you can know how much he loves you and one day come and take you to heaven with all of us who believe in Jesus... I know that this is the moment when I could finish, but please be patient. I want to speak about my last meeting with God. What did I learn?

**Colossians 2:13-15** *"13 And you, being dead through your sins and the evil condition of your flesh, to you, I say, he gave life together with him, and forgiveness of all our sins; 14 Having put an end to the handwriting of the law which was against us, taking it out of the way by nailing it to his cross; 15 Having made himself free from the rule of authorities and powers, he put them openly to shame, glorying over them in it."*

**Colossians 3:1-4** *"1 If then you have a new life with Christ, give your attention to the things of heaven, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Keep your mind on the higher things, not on the things of earth. 3 For your life on earth is done, and you have a secret life with Christ in God. 4 At the coming of Christ who is our life, you will be seen with him in glory.*

I became a Christian when I was 18 y.o. - forgiveness of sins, heaven... but it was still me...

\*God loves us for who we are.

\*Unfortunately, we won't stop walking and start levitating, but God will open a path for us... a path to our true self, a path to freedom, a path of life (growth, trials,...). It is a different path than walking in the dark.

**Colossians 3:10-11:** *"10 And have put on the new man, which has become new in knowledge after the image of his maker; 11 Where there is no Greek or Jew, no one with circumcision or without circumcision, no division between nations, no servant or free man: but Christ is all and in all."*

I don't know if you knew what I was like, if you know me at all. A lot happened on my journey (after I believed in Jesus)... I also gave up a few things and in my last meeting with God, I gave up myself, or at least the Martin I made of myself.

- Who I was? I was lonely, full of pain, I wanted respect from people. It was a survival.

I didn't even know this about myself. I just prayed that God would take the pain away. I couldn't go on anymore. He revealed all this. He explained to me that this is not who I was supposed to be. This is not my true identity - don't ask people for recognition, don't ask them to see you. I SEE YOU!

- I said: okay... Who am I? Who is God? I am His son!

It fills me with joy. It changed my perspective on a lot of things (freedom, respect). So, based on my last meeting with God, I want to encourage those of you who are already on that path. Don't be afraid to renounce something in your heart that God points out. He means well for us. Even though we may have a different opinion.

**Gospel according to John 10:1-11:** *"1 Truly I say to you, He who does not go through the door into the place where the sheep are kept, but gets in by some other way, is a thief and an outlaw. 2 He who goes in by the door is the keeper of the sheep. 3 The porter lets him in; and the sheep give ear to his voice; he says over the names of the sheep, and takes them out. 4 When he has got them all out, he goes before them, and the sheep go after him, for they have knowledge of his voice. 5 They will not go after another who is not their keeper, but will go from him in flight, because his voice is strange to them. 6 In this Jesus was teaching them in the form of a story: but what he said was not clear to them. 7 So Jesus said again, Truly I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and outlaws: but the sheep did not give ear to them. 9 I am the door: if any man goes in through me he will have salvation, and will go in and go out, and will get food. 10 The thief comes only to take the sheep and to put them to death: he comes for their destruction: I have come so that they may have life and have it in greater measure."*

**AMEN**