

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."

Do we talk "with" God, or "at" God?

Something we really don't think about when we pray. But then a lot of times we don't think about that when we are talking to others as well. How often do people become bored when we talk to them or tend to shy away because they really don't want to talk to us? Well, it could be that we are talking "at" them, instead of "with" them. One way to find out which we are doing is, when someone is talking with us, are we, for the most part, ignoring them and thinking of what we want to say next "to" them?

If you have ever read the book of Job, that's what Job's three friends were doing when Job was suffering the loss of everything, and now his health, and Job was in a place no one would ever want to be. Job was pouring his heart out to his friends, but instead of being a comfort to Job, they chose instead to talk "at" Job. And the results were.

† **Job 16:1-3** *Then Job answered and said: "I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters are you all! Shall words of wind have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer?"*

But we all know that when someone talks "at" you, we rather turn what they have to say off, because we don't want to hear it. Yet don't we do the same with God sometimes? We could be reading our bible, but really not paying attention to what God is saying, because we want to put our bible's down and get into prayer where we can talk "at" God, giving Him our honey do list or complaints. We want to talk "at" God because we want to say what we want to say, regardless of what He wants to say to us.

Jesus is our perfect example of how to talk "with" people and not "at" them, because as we read the gospels, we always read of Jesus talking "with" people, not "at" people. No wonder everyone was attracted to Him and listened to Him.

† **John 4:27** *And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"* (underlined for emphasis)

† **Mark 6:50** *for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."* (underlined for emphasis)

We need to stop and wonder; are we being tuned out because we are talking "at" people when we share Jesus with them instead of talking "with" them about Jesus?

When God said in today's verse "***Come now, and let us reason together***" it's clear that God wants to talk "with" us "***let us reason together***" not "at" us.

So, this Thanksgiving Day, when we are with our family and friends, why not talk "with" them about Jesus, and not "at" them about how terrible they are, and throwing the name of Jesus in there once in a while. In fact, let's examine the way we talk to people the rest of this year, and as we learn more how to talk "with" people about Jesus, let's do that more this coming year.

Let's also talk "with" God and Jesus instead of talking "at" God and Jesus, and to do that, let Him start off the conversation by reading His word, then respond to what He tells us, in word, and in action as well.

† **James 2:18** *But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

† **1 John 3:18** *My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.*

† **Deuteronomy 5:24** *And you said: 'Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives.* (underlined for emphasis)