

## The Path to Wholeness: FIVE August 19, 2018

Today we take a look at FIVEs.  
(I will own that there is a lot of FIVE in me!)

A FIVE is nick-named the observer

Whereas FOURs feel deeply,  
The FIVE's think deeply.  
Since they don't make decisions based on their heart as much as their head,  
They're able to stay objective even in a crisis.

You want a FIVE for a pilot.  
Like Captain Sully who made his emergency landing in the Hudson River.  
Hello, this is your pilot.  
We have lost power in one engine.  
We have now lost power in another engine.  
Control tower, you will find us in the Hudson River.

You want a FIVE in the emergency room.  
A ONE would say – You shouldn't have done that!  
A TWO – Oh I'm needed! How can I help!  
A THREE – Hey, this one's dying, you take him, I don't want the death on my record.  
A FOUR – Oh dear, you must be in so much pain. I'm so sorry!  
A FIVE – OK, we're gonna need two surgeons and a heart specialist; let's get moving.

It's not that these personality types don't have feelings, (They're NOT Dr. Spock)  
it's just that their feelings often come limping along behind them.  
It takes them time to get in touch with them.  
(For me there's about a 24-hour time lag between telling you what happened  
and being able to tell you I feel about it.)

They need friends around them who will say,  
I know what you think; now tell me what you feel.  
And they'll say, OK, give me 24 hours. 😊

Because FIVEs love observing, they may be photographers – an eye for beauty.  
Because they love observing, they seek out to new facts, new ideas.  
You might find FIVEs among researchers, teachers, philosophers, detectives.

This quality also makes them great listeners.

They can play close attention to what you say

and then play back to you what you just said better than you said it in the first place.

If you are raising a FIVE, their favorite question is, WHY?

Many others don't care *why*, as long as it *works*.

But FIVES? They want to know *WHY* it works and *HOW* it works.

Don't take FIVES to a magic show.

They'll sit there and figure out how it's done,

and then spoil the fun by telling you.

FIVES are often introverts, which doesn't mean there are shy.

It just means they sort out life better by themselves than by talking to people.

Therefore, their space and privacy is of utmost importance.

They find too many people and too much closeness fatiguing. (need space!)

They don't like people "intruding" on their space.

If you want to see a FIVES emotions, just barge into their room without knocking.

An immature FIVE will be tempted to withdraw too far into themselves

and become detached from life.

They think they're OK, because after all, they have so many right answers.

They can easily disappear into the world of video games, books, computers, work.

These things make sense; people don't.

This can make them appear "cool" or "aloof," a "holier-than-thou" (condescending)

Other times it can make them appear self-assured and convincing

They will avoid feelings, and relationships that creates dependency.

They're afraid of needy people,

fearing if they give a little finger the person will want the whole hand.

But those who can respect their boundaries find a true companion,

a patient listener and a fair counselor.

While FOURS (as you recall) like to attract attention by their original appearance,

FIVES generally don't like to attract attention to themselves.

I can remember that the first day of school was a real FIVE experience for me.

Of course, like most of the kids, I had a new dress (and yes girls always wore dresses) the first day of school.

While I was always loved the new dress. I hated wearing it to school.

It was so embarrassing for me to think other people would look at me and evaluate me.

To *really* understand this personality type it helps to know their **core motivation** and their **core temptation**.

➤ **Core motivation** -- I need to avoid emptiness (through knowledge)

FIVE's experience of life is a sort of emptiness, hollowness

They might say, **"I just never feel completely at home, never like a fully belong."**

They fear loneliness.

But rather than seek out people, they try to fill up this void with knowledge.

– taking in knowledge, thoughts, ideas  
or sometimes money and stuff

To help us understand this **core motivation**, we go to the **BOOK** to . . .

**Here we meet a man named Nicodemus in John 3**

**There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.**

A Pharisee was a religious leader and Nicodemus was the best of the best.

He is one of the most amazingly intelligent men of his day.

And he wasn't just a Pharisee; he was a member the Sanhedrin. (ruling religious group)

That would be like being a member of the Senate and the Supreme court at the same time.

**This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him,**

**"Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God;**

**for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."**

Ah, the observer has observed!

He has **OBSERVED** the miraculous signs.

Like a scientist, he observations and draws conclusions.

**God has to be with you!**

But Jesus is so discerning!

He doesn't even comment on his astute observation,

Or correctness of his conclusions, but answered him,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again,  
he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Jesus just told the *observer* that he can't *see*.

What does Nicodemus do?

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old?  
Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”

Of course! He asks for more *information* – more *knowledge, please*.

Jesus answered,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit,  
he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh,  
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

Born of water – physical birth begins with the breaking of water.

Born of the Spirit – spiritual birth that begins with the breaking in of the Spirit of God.

What does Nicodemus do?

He asks, “How can these things be?”

He just can't get his head around what Jesus is saying.

What's his problem?

All the head knowledge in the world won't open the door to spiritual birth;  
to being born again, to seeing the kingdom of God.

He's saying,

**I want sooo badly to understand' just explain it to me better, Jesus.**

Jesus answered and said to him,

“Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?”

Basically, Jesus is saying, Nicodemus, you are the brightest of the bright,  
but you can't reach God through your intellect.

God is spirit, and you must reach him through your spirit.

Nicodemus is falling into the category of people that Paul mentions in 2 Timothy 3:7  
. . . always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

You can be a professor of New Testament at a university, and not know Jesus.  
You can be a pastor or priest or teacher of the Bible and not know Jesus.  
Your brain isn't big enough to wrap itself around God and experience Jesus.  
Only your heart is big enough to grasp Jesus.

As Paul says in Romans 10:9-10

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"  
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.  
For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified,  
and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

You've gotta have compassion for Nicodemus.  
He's stuck in his head,  
while God is moving into the world with his *heart* . . .

The writer of John goes on to explain,  
For God so LOVED the world that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life

Jesus is trying to jar Nicodemus out of his head and into his heart,  
the place of spiritual birth.  
The place Jesus wants to take the FIVE.

So we see in Nicodemus the core motivation of a FIVE.  
But how about the Core Temptation for a FIVE

➤ **Core Temptation** -- Greed, Stinginess

Their time is precious to the.  
It will be hard to get them to serve and volunteer at church.

Their emotions they share with difficult, and only with a chosen few.

With their money?  
They are frugal.  
They are great savers.  
They are also calculated givers  
Spontaneous generosity is NOT their default.

Again, we go to the BOOK to see this Core Temptation play out in a parable Jesus told, recorded in Luke 12:16-21.

“The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’  
“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do.  
I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones,  
and there I will store my surplus grain.  
And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’  
“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

That’s an UNREDEEMED FIVE,  
but a REDEEMED FIVE is a tremendous blessing.

As is so often the case, a persons CORE CONTRIBUTION to the Kingdom of God is often the opposite of their core temptation.

**A FIVE’s CORE CONTRIBUTION TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS TWO-FOLD**  
**Radical Generosity**  
**Wise Objectivity**

This is the behavior we could expect from Nicodemus if found redemption. If he ever made it out of his head and into his heart and was born again.

The best evidence that the truth made the 18” journey from his head to his heart is found in John 19:38-40

It’s after the crucifixion . . .

Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission.

So he came and took the body of Jesus.

And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

Then they took the body of Jesus and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

100 pounds of perfumed ointment.  
Scholars estimate that to be between \$50,000 and a half a million.  
So yes, Nicodemus was radically generous with his money.

How about his time?  
Consider, this is the eve of Passover with so many family obligations.  
Where is Nicodemus? Burying Jesus!

And his emotions?  
You don't give this extravagantly unless your heart can do no other.

Now how about the gift of objectivity?  
Consider the horrifying drama that has just taken place before everyone's eyes on the cross.  
Nicodemus knows what the situation requires.  
He knows how to step into a crisis and takes charge.  
He knows how a king should be buried, and makes it happen.

I believe Nicodemus was truly born again.

If you are a FIVE, or know a FIVE or have some characteristics of a FIVE  
Here's a Scriptures to nudge along on the path to redemption.

Prov 18:1

He who separates himself seeks his own desire, he quarrels against all sound wisdom.

REDEEMED FIVES find the balance between retreat and engagement by  
fixing their eyes on Jesus who modeled a REDEEMED FIVE so artfully.

MANY times we see Jesus reject the demands of the people around him  
and retreated to be alone with the Father,

But it was not a self-indulgent retreat,  
or a withdrawal so he could stand on his perch and be an indifferent spectator,  
Rather, his retreat was to realign heart and mind with that of the Father,  
so he could re-enter the pain and chaos of broken humanity  
and serve with radical generously and wise objectivity.

And like Jesus, A REDEEMED FIVE learns to turn their knowing into being.

Jesus knew the Scriptures backwards and forwards  
but not so he could expound on theology.

Rather he *became* the incarnate WORD of God

My prayer for you all today, whether you are a FIVE or any other number is that you would be able to say as Job did:

Job 42:5 GNT

In the past I knew only what others had told me,  
but now I have seen you with my own eyes.

### **BENEDICTION**

It's easy for a FIVE to over-plan, over-analyze, over-prepare,  
So this benediction is for FIVE.  
Some things just need to be left in the realm of mystery

From Romans 11:33-36

May you grasp the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

For his judgments are unsearchable,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!

“Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”

“Who has ever given to God,  
that God should repay them?”

May you rest in the knowledge that it is:  
from him and through him and for him that all things exist.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.