**HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**COURSE:** Relational Evangelism

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**LET’S MEET**

Most of us have had the experience of meeting someone we didn’t know at a restaurant or an airport. We had no idea of what they looked like. We arrived at the place feeling a little anxious. Will we just intuitively know them when we see them? How many people will I have to ask, “Are you Bob?” before I find him?

I’ve had those experiences and I always felt uncomfortable. Once I sat in the adjoining booth to a guy for 10-15 minutes before we finally realized we were the one the other was looking for. We felt a bit stupid when we finally figured it out. The only thing worse would have been to have gone home and later discover we had been within 10 feet of each other.

Trying to identify someone would be much easier if the other person gave us some hints about what they would look like. If they said, “You won’t have any problem identifying me. You will recognize me within a second. I will be wearing a tall red hat. I will have a green jacket with large yellow dots on it. I will be wearing bright blue baggy shorts. I will have on high, rainbow-colored socks. And I will be wearing a pair of giant pink clown shoes,” that really would simplify the search and there would be no doubts when the person walks in. No one else will walk in dressed like that. I might have doubts about wanting to be seen in public with them but that is a different issue!

If God were to announce that He was going to show up on earth He would need to do something so we could pick him out from among the throngs of millions here on earth. He would need to give us some incredible, infallible, unmistakable and identifiable clues. He would need to give us “markers” to look for that would give us full confidence it was really Him and not some imposter or lunatic claiming to be Him. We couldn’t afford to be wrong on this.

Guess what, God did make an appointment with us! He announced he would be coming. He certainly didn’t want us to miss Him. He had something incredibly important for us. He would have some really Good News. It would be horrific if we sat in the next booth, lived in the next house or worked in the next cubicle but never knew it was HIM!

He had to do something so it would be impossible to miss Him and that would leave no doubts that it was actually Him and that the message we were hearing was truly from God Himself. In as much as hundreds have claimed to come in the name of God, there could be no room for error here.

Here’s what he did. Centuries BEFORE His appointment with us He delivered over 300 detailed descriptions of how He would arrive, what He would be like, what He would do and what would happen to Him.

It was even better in that the most recent of those markers was written 700 years before He even showed up. All the rest were older than that. Better yet, they were of the nature that no one in recorded history could come anywhere close to fulfilling even a small portion of the descriptions or markers. No one else would walk in looking like Him. So these markers would surely set Him apart and make it easier for us. When He showed up we would just have to compare Him with the 300 descriptions. How easy!

And then on top of that, He did lots of miracles: He healed all kinds of diseases, He calmed storms, walked on water, changed water into wine in an instant and even brought dead people back to life. There was a much longer list of miracles He did. No mere man could do that; no imposter, deceiver or lunatic.

Now isn’t it interesting? God said he would come. He did give us markers of what His coming and being here would be like. We couldn’t miss Him. We couldn’t err.

He came. We can know it was Him. He made it obvious. It is easy to identify him. His name is Jesus.

Now each person has to decide if they want to hear and accept His Good News and whether or not they want to be seen in public with Him.