

Lesson 2 - How Can We Serve a Holy God?

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Introduction: The essence of Christianity is coming to know God.

- A. Jesus wanted all men to find eternal life. **(Jn 17:3-4)**
 - 1. This life can only come when men know God and His glory. **(Jn 14:6-7)**
 - 2. The basis of all that we do comes from this knowledge.
 - 3. Look at how Jesus instructed the apostles! **(Jn 17:6-8)**
- B. God wants us to know Him so that we might have fellowship with Him.
 - 1. Consider how you might begin a relationship with another. What must you learn?
 - 2. God wants us to know what He is like so that we might change! God has let us know that He cannot change! **(Mal 3:6; James 1:17; Heb 13:8)**
 - 3. Many of the moral and doctrinal compromises men make has its root in a lack of knowledge of God. Changeable men want to speak for God.

I. God's personal introduction to Moses

- A. God first wants Moses to know that He is holy. **(Ex 3:1-5)**
 - 1. God tells Him to take off his shoes. Holiness demands a special approach.
 - 2. There is a paradox to having a relationship with a holy God just as a fire can be burning in a bush without it being consumed!
- B. What does it mean for God to be holy?
 - 1. Consider the perfect holiness of God in three verses.
(1 Sam 2:2; Isa 40:25; Hosea 11:9)
 - 2. "In the Old Testament, the verb holy in the Hebrew is "quodesh", meaning "to consecrate, to sanctify, to prepare, to dedicate, to be separate." The noun holiness means "apartness, sacredness, separateness.""
 - 3. "In the New Testament, the words holy, holiness, sanctify, and sanctification all come from the same Greek word "hagious," which means "sacred, (physically) pure, morally blameless, consecrated, innocent, modest, perfect, clean, pure.""
- C. God appealed to His holiness to teach His people how to have a relationship with Him. **(Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:26)**
 - 1. Fire represents the purity and Holiness of God and also the dread brought on the unholy one who is brought into his presence.
 - 2. As God delivered His holy word on Mt. Sinai there was fire, lightning and a display of God's power. God wanted His people to see this and tremble.
(Heb 12:18-21, 29)
 - 3. God wants us to show us how to have a relationship with Him and live!

II. How God's holiness changes us

- A. We will have a dread of facing a Holy God unprepared.
 - 1. Fear can be a great tool to open a heart. **(Isa 6:2-7)**
 - 2. We need to remember that our sins separate us from a holy God.
 - 3. God's holiness should humble a man so that he might open his heart to change.

- B. We will value the love and mercy of God as a great treasure.
 - 1. Men may ridicule us but God considers us a treasure. **(Deut 7:6-9; 1 Pt 2:9)**
 - 2. How can a holy God love us so? He does!
 - 3. With God's love and forgiveness I see God's holiness as that which I desire rather than that which I dread. **(1 Jn 3:1-3)**
- C. We will find God to be our faithful rock in looking after His people. **(1 Sam 2:1-9)**
 - 1. Remembering God's holiness gives us a great confidence in the power of God!
 - 2. We can smile at our enemies!
 - 3. We find the humility that comes from knowing God to be the source of His power working in our lives. **(1 Pt 5:5)**
 - 4. We know God's promises to be true! He will never forsake us.

III. The blessings produced by knowing the God who is holy

- A. It humbles a man and allows him to open his heart to hear and change.
 - 1. Fear can be a great tool to open a heart. **(Deut 5:23-24, 28-29)**
 - 2. The challenge for the people would be to remember that day and also to instill this fear of God in their children.
 - 3. The great challenge we face is in willingly forgetting these truths and being draw away by the temporary.
- B. It lets us know that all that God does is perfect.
 - 1. Anything that comes from God is holy. The scriptures are not a mere product of men influenced by past cultures. **(Rom 1:2; 2 Tim 3:15; 1 Thess 2:13)**
 - 2. God's people are set apart to His holy ways. **(Deut 14:2-3; 1 Pt 2:9)**
 - 3. God's instructions and ways are holy. Consider a "holy tithe." **(Deut 26:13-14)**
 - 4. Were the things collected in the tithe "holy?"
- C. It brings a reverence for God and His ways. **(Isa 48:17-18)**
 - 1. Since God had a complete instruction in how He was to be approached, then those who out of a lack of reverence changed God's instructions received God's condemnation. **(Deut 4:2; 1 Chron 15:12-13)**
 - 2. Consider how Moses explained the death of Aaron's sons to Aaron. **(Lev 10:1-3)**
 - 3. How should we approach God today? **(Rev 22:18-19)**
- D. It produces a distinctive faith and thus a distinctive people.
 - 1. Many become concerned about offending others and turn away from the holiness of God.
 - 2. There must be a distinctive preaching that affects our conduct and our thoughts. **(2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Heb 12:10-17)**
 - 3. Men may ridicule us but God considers us a treasure. **(Deut 7:6-9; 1 Pt 2:9)**
 - 4. All is done to glorify God and not you! **(1 Pt 4:11)**
- E. It makes us glory in and be thankful for the goodness and mercy of God.

Conclusion: Let each of us glory in the Lord and in His perfect ways for our good.