

**JOB SERIES ELEVEN**  
**HOW WE GET OUR VIEW OF GOD**  
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**JOHN 9:1-3, 13-18, 24-34; MATTHEW 23:1-4, 13-36**  
**(SERMON 1591)**

Two weeks ago we began exploring our view of God. Unfortunately, it is fair to say that most people have a view of God that does not accurately portray the real God. As we approached the end of the book of Job we saw God begin to reveal Himself to Job. This revelation is the first accurate picture of God, chronologically, given in the Bible. We begin here. God is majestic in His awesomeness. He is also personally wooing everyone into a relationship with Himself. The picture of God that begins in Job culminates in the life of Jesus Christ.

LAST WEEK WE EXAMINED FOUR PRIMARY VIEWS OF GOD.

1. Some view God as primarily DISTANT.
2. Some view God primarily as INSPECTING.
3. Some view God primarily as DISAPPOINTED.”
4. The Real God is INTIMATELY AND COMPASSIONATELY INVOLVED in our lives.

NEXT WEEK WE WILL SEE HOW OUR VIEW OF GOD IS RESHAPED AS WE WALK IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S TRUTH:

1. The light of GOD'S SON
2. The light of GOD'S WORD
3. The light of GOD'S PEOPLE

THIS WEEK WE WILL SEE HOW OUR VIEW OF GOD IS SHAPED POSITIVELY OR PAINFULLY THROUGH:

1. LIFE EVENTS

See John 9:1-3. This man born blind experiences healing by a compassionate encounter with Jesus Christ.

Life events can produce bitterness and bondage. If the question “Where was God?” is not adequately resolved it will painfully impact our view of God.

Life events can affect us positively like Joseph or Job, or painfully like King Saul. Consider how tough times made Joseph into a man of God and the same type of tough times produced bitterness and bondage in the life of Saul.

*Exercise: Make a life map to look at positive and negative life events. In that context, rejoice and mourn with people.*

2. RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND EXPERIENCES

See John 9:13-18, 24-34: The religious leaders heard about the healing. Did they rejoice? No, they put him on trial; and when he gave the “wrong answers,” they kicked him out of the church.

See Matthew 23:1-4, 13-36 and consider what Jesus had to say to religious leaders who misled and mistreated the people.

Too many churches minister condemnation instead of grace.

A pastor with an incorrect view of God will pass his view on to the congregation and sow much heartache and despair.

An incorrect view of God will produce a skewed interpretation of Biblical passages.

Too many churches confuse their convictions with Biblical truth. Convictions are personal and optional. Biblical truth is not.

Great insecurity and fear exists in the body of Christ because of controlling leaders who attack fearful and insecure people as well as other members in the Body of Christ in order to give themselves a false sense of security.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century church we have to address peoples' concepts of God. We need a fresh message from the church about "Who is the real God?" We need a real view of the right God.

### 3. GROWING UP EXPERIENCES

See John 9:19-23: Notice how the healed man's parents abandoned him in his hour of need. Did his family rejoice with him? No, they distanced themselves from him.

One day the disciples asked the Lord Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray. He began with the words, "Our Father..." What are the implications of Jesus teaching us to begin our prayers with the words: "Our Father?" Could it be that Jesus is portraying a God who longs to be caringly involved in our lives?

I know that many of us had wonderful parents; but, I know that some of us did not. As children our parents greatly shaped our theology—our view of God.

*Here is a helpful exercise.*

*What is my primary concept of God? Is "my God" intimately and caringly involved in my life?*

*Or, am I hindered from experiencing God as He really is because I see Him as:*

- 1. Inspecting me?*
- 2. Disappointed in me?*
- 3. Distant from me?*

*Where did my view of God primarily come from?*

- 1. Life events*
- 2. Religious events*
- 3. Growing up relationships*

*Is my view of God a healthy one? Or, are there things in my past that I need to mourn in order to receive healing and comfort. Experience Romans 12:15: "Mourn with those who mourn and rejoice with those who rejoice."*

The real God is longing for an intimate relationship with us. He will never reject us or turn away from us based on the relationship He wants to have with us.

Let's close with a quiet meditation on the nature of the real God.