

**JOB SERIES TEN**  
**WILL THE REAL GOD PLEASE STAND UP?**  
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**LUKE 11:11-13; PSALM 139:1-3; JOHN 14:1-11; LUKE 15:1-2; JOHN 7:53-8:11; JOHN 11:35;**  
**LUKE 8:42-28; DEUTERONOMY 6:4-6; ROMANS 8:33-34; REVELATION 3:20**  
**(SERMON 1589)**

■ **SLIDE #1:** The Movie, *Catch Me If You Can*, starring Tom Hanks and Leonardo Decaprio is really not so new. It is a remake of an earlier movie telling the true story of Frank Abagnale who defrauded the banking industry of over \$5,000,000, went to prison and then went on to a long and storied career in the bank fraud division of the FBI.

The movie begins with the actual taped footage of Abagnale appearing on the wildly popular TV show,

■ **SLIDE #2:** *I've Got a Secret*, in which Bill Cullen and Bess Meyerson and all the rest would question three individuals as to their true identity. One was obviously the true individual, the other two were impostors. The panel tried to guess who the real person was. Then, at a crucial moment, bill Cullen would say, "Will the real Frank Abagnale please stand up?"

In my mind, there is a big game of *I've Got a Secret* going on today concerning Who is the real God.

■ **SLIDE #3:** My God is a cow

■ **SLIDE #4:** My God is a sun

■ **SLIDE #5:** My God is a Ganges River

■ **SLIDE #6:** My God is the god who blew up the twin towers

Will the real God stand up? Many of us wouldn't know the real God if He stood up

Let's Begin Our Look For The Real God With A Look At The Rhetorical Question And Lesson In Luke 11:11-13.

■ **SLIDE #7:** Luke 11:11-12: "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?"

■ **SLIDE #8:** What if when you were growing up you needed bread and got snakes and scorpions. What if you are from a broken family culture where you needed affection and got abuse? What if you needed security and you were abandonment—attention and were left alone? What if you needed approval and were rejected? 20 million drug addicts are raising children. Kids need comfort and instead they get coldness and indifference. We say, "the God of all comfort," and they say, "What is comfort?"

■ **SLIDE #9:** But, What if when you were growing up you needed bread and got bread.

■ **SLIDE #10:** Comfort and got comfort.

■ **SLIDE #11:** Luke 11:13: If you then, though you are evil (wicked, bad, sinful), know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Can you imagine that our parents dramatically affect our view of God? Well, sure you can.

STORY: Theresa's concept of God: Dad on the roof, never available to play. David and Theresa Ferguson were leading a group and he asked them to share a memory. Theresa shared a memory of a 4 year old girl who remembered around 4 or 4:30 in the afternoon beginning to get anxious about daddy coming home and wanting to be with him and play with him and him with her.

But it rarely ever happened. Maybe never. He came home quickly. Soon at the dinner table, soon outside, water the grass, mow the lawn, then to be. Never there to play. The need for attention went unmet.

The memory she shared that day was this. She remembered that four-year-old girl waking up and it is Saturday. Dad is going to be home. So she gets up at the crack of dawn and goes looking for daddy. She is going to find him and spend some time with him.

She looked around the house and couldn't find him. She heard a noise outside so she let herself out the front door looking for daddy. She couldn't find daddy out front so she went around back. She heard a noise up on the roof. Daddy was up on the roof peeling off shingles. Daddy intended to reroof the house that day. That was his Saturday project.

This little 4-year-old girl climbed up the ladder and went across the roof looking for daddy. That is how strong the attention hunger is. "Theresa get off the roof..."

Needless to say, she and daddy did not play that day.

**SLIDE #12:** Her concept of God is, "When I wake up, I don't think God even noticed."

Glenn and I have been teaching through the book of Job. Last week we came to that part of the book where God very carefully unveils His true character.

**SLIDE #13:** We discovered last week that the real God is the one who trembles me and thrills me. (Get Tape or CD).

We experienced last Sunday a God Who was large enough to rule over the universe(s) and small enough to be compassionately involved in our lives.

We wouldn't want a God who did anything less.

The real God trembles me with His power and awesomeness.

**SLIDE #14:** Great universe on the scale of  $10^{22}$  meters

**SLIDE #15:** Yet, He designed it all with tiny little vibrating strings on the scale of  $10^{-22}$  meters.

**SLIDE #16:** Let this thrill your heart—right in the middle is man on the scale of 1 meter. Man is the focal point of this entire universe.

He is wooing us into relationship with Him.

Many Views Of God Exist Among Us Today. Most All Views Can Be Categorized Into Four Areas:

**SLIDE #17:** Some view God as primarily Distant and uninvolved.

Story: Theresa learns to swim. Dad throws her in and stands back to see how she is doing. Her concept of God is one who is not emotionally engaged—just passively watching how we do!

Theresa thinks God's response to her prayers goes something like this:

**SLIDE #18:** "I don't even notice when Theresa is praying."

Now, there are times when God is distant: Spiritual Growth tool. But that is only for a season and certainly for a reason.

■ SLIDE #19: Some view God primarily as the Great Inspector (the harsh taskmaster)

STORY of David's dad, bed and quarters; two fingers between hangers or throw it all on the floor.

Here is the God who is always watching to catch him when he does wrong and punish him for it.

Maybe you grew up in a church that presented God whose main purpose in life was to inspect every action in order to find sin and punish it.

David thinks God's response to his prayers goes something like this:

■ SLIDE #20: "Look, David is trying to pray. He doesn't know how to do it very well. His prayer is usually not good enough."

Steele Wright: "My prayer is good enough for God but not good enough for mom."

Roger: "God is great..." Julie, "Come on; do it right."

Once a week I will expound on that prayer. You only do that when you think God likes you.

Does God ever inspect us? Certainly. He is a loving parent who is leading us to holiness—but this is not His primary thrust.

■ SLIDE #21: Some view God primarily as DISAPPOINTED?"

STORY: Roger's story of 2:00 AM and mom's comment: "I am so disappointed in you.

Marker Event and mom never remembered it.

Let me get personal.

STORY: Discouraged, mostly tired. Feeling like a failure. Feeling God was disappointed with me. Driving across town. Stopped at red light. Had this image of being in Heaven. Standing in line waiting to see Jesus. I pictured myself getting out of line and slinking away because I did not figure Jesus wanted to see me anyway.

Julie: "How much does it take to be enough? Church well, people love relocation, site, space, attendance soaring, reaching new people, kids doing well, teach pastors and wives all over the country. How much is enough?" It just did not help.

■ SLIDE #22: "Oh no, it is Roger praying, I wish it were somebody else!"

What does the real God look like?

Grandmother STORY: "He's up! He's up!"

■ SLIDE #23: The Real God is intimately and compassionately involved in my life.

■ SLIDE #24: Psalm 139:1-3: O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Is that your view of God?

Or, "Oh no, he's up. I wonder what trouble he's going to get into today?"

"I have to be on my best behavior, God is inspecting me and disappointed with me if I mess up—or perhaps worse, He doesn't even care if I wake up.

The real God is the one who looks like Jesus Christ.

**SLIDE #25:** There is a sense in which we read stories of a God in the OT who thunders in fire and lightning at Mount Sinai with the 10 commandments, but who one day put on a body in Jesus Christ to show us face to face what His heart is really like.

**SLIDE #26:** READ JOHN 14:4-11

"Have you been so long with me and you don't you even know who I am? If you have seen me you have seen the Father, I and the Father are one."

**SLIDE #27:** Luke 15:1: Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.

Who gathered around Jesus?

Tax collectors = rejected outcasts

Sinners = law breakers and behavior breakers

Luke 15:2: But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

**SLIDE #28:** He was willing to come down to our level and meet us at our point of failure: woman in John 7:59-8:11. He welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Why in the sand, because that is where she was.

**SLIDE #29:** The easiest to remember verse (John 11:35: "Jesus wept.") is a verse about a God who weeps. What does this teach us about the heart of God as He relates with us?

Julie and I leave Bronwyn in London cries. On plane Julie takes Bible and began weeping. "I just realized that God is reading my heart and weeping with me."

God comforted her. That's intimacy.

**SLIDE #30:** Woman with issue of blood touching His garment – Luke 8:42-48

The real God is the God who notices us. He is not distant, uninvolved or uncaring.

The real God is never too busy to notice.

The real God goes out of the way to meet our needs.

Let me show you why this is so important.

The truth is, you can only love the real God.

Matthew 22:37-40: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart...Love neighbor as yourself."

If you wake up and God is already disappointed in you...doesn't even know you are awake...you can't love that God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

If it is true that He is excited that you're up, it is easy to love a God who is anxiously waiting to take great care of you.

If your God is distant, inspecting, or disappointed in you—it is really hard to pass that love along to someone else.

Is God excited? Inspecting? Disappointed? Distant?

*In just a moment I want to lead you through a little meditation picturing the heart of the real God.*

**SLIDE #31:** Romans 8:33-34: Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

SHARE GOSPEL: Approach God through Jesus Christ. See Him, He is perfect. We have all gone astray...messed up...lives hurt...hurt those around us...Jesus wants to heal that pain.

“Who can bring charge against God’s elect?”

The answer to most of us is “anyone who wants to—and we have their names!”

God answers the question with “God.” The only person who can bring charge against you is God!

He asks it again in the next verse so that we don’t miss it: “Who can condemn you?”

For most of us the answer is “anyone can—stand in line.”

Paul says, “No, only Christ can. He is the only one.

And look the only one who can is the one Who died for you and rose again for you now lives to intercede for you. He is praying for you.

MEDITATION: Imagine entering the court room. This is Romans 8. You come in filled with anxiety. Room is filled with your accusers—those who condemn you, judge you, criticize you, disappointed with you—folks you have never been able to please.

Bailiff: “All rise!”

The Judge walks in, it is Jesus Christ. Imagine him the way you imagine him. He has long flowing robes, bearded face, and sandaled feet.

Rather than going to the bench, picture Him coming to you and kneeling down on the floor beside you.

Picture Him putting His arm around you—He is not inspecting you, He is accepting you—He is not disappointed in you, He is affirming you, supporting you and invites you to pray. Picture His nail-pierced hands and feet as his arms are around you.

“Who shall bring charge against God’s elect?” Only Jesus Christ and he has died, raised and is living now, praying for you—interceding for you.


He is not distant from you, He is kneeling right beside you.

He whispers, “Where are your accusers? You look up. The room is empty. He whispers, “Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.”

May God seal this picture of the interceding Jesus, arms around me, praying for me. May he seal this deeply into my heart.

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Share Gospel

 SLIDE #32: Let me tell you what is going on in many hearts this morning. Look at picture of Revelation 3:20: Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart and wants to come in.

*In just a minute I am going to give you an opportunity to pray with me a simple prayer to open the door to your life and invite Jesus to enter in. But, for the next several moments I want you to listen to this lovely song, "I am forgiven and consider what that might mean in your life.*

SONG: *I'm Forgiven*

*Invite you to pray a prayer of Salvation with me.*

Dear Father in Heaven, I now open the door of my heart and consciously invite you into my life. I am tired of running my life alone. I want to live in partnership with you. I know that I am neither perfect nor good enough to approach a God of perfection. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to forgive my sins and make me right with God forever. I now give my live to you. Amen.

*If you prayed that prayer I want you to raise your hand for just a moment.*

All heads down, if prayed that prayer, in a minute I am going to invite you to walk down the aisle beside you to the holy place just in front of me. Glenn is here to talk with you. Pastors and counselors here to guide you into a life-time partnership with Jesus Christ. If already a Xns, Pray for those who will come.

Ladies choir sings, come forward.

Altar call over

1. Affirm them in decision—most significant day in your life—clap for them.
2. Glenn and I want to have a 5 minute conversation with you back stage—gift—few words of direction
3. If your friend came forward, I invite you to join them—won't have to figure out where to find them—get rest of family back there
4. Bible classes—maybe you wanted to come and you didn't, Glenn and I are back there
5. New believers follow me back stage