

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)

Will the Real God Please Stand Up? I have a hunch many of us would not recognize the real God if He stood up!

As Glenn and I have been teaching through the book of Job we came last week to that part of the book where God very carefully unveils His true character. Remember, we saw a God who both Trembles us and Thrills us. He thunders out the audacity of Job's daring to call God's overall plans and intentions into questions. When the face-to-face interview was finished, Job was shaking in fear, reverence and repentance. But, remember, we were also treated to a picture of God Who was intimately "wooing" Job into a restored relationship with Him.

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.

Therefore, during the next several weeks we want to continue a little series tucked inside our study of the Book of Job. We will call this tongue in cheek, "Thou Shalt Not Have Fun." However, officially we are talking about the "The Right View Of The Real God."

By the way, if you missed last week please get a tape or CD at the Shepherd's Heart Ministry table on the Plaza immediately after this service.

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

What if growing up we needed bread and got snakes? But, what if growing up we needed bread and got bread? Can you imagine that our parents dramatically affect our view of God? Well, sure you can.

The Real God Is The One Who Trembles Me And Thrills Me. We Wouldn't Want A God Who Was Anything Less.

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

- Some view God as primarily DISTANT and uninvolved.
"I don't even notice when Suzie is praying."

- Some view God primarily as the GREAT INSPECTOR (the harsh taskmaster).
"Look, Ricky is trying to pray. He doesn't know how to do it very well. His prayer is usually not good enough."

- Some view God primarily as DISAPPOINTED?"
"Oh no, it is David praying, I wish it were somebody else!"

- The Real God is Intimately And Compassionately Involved in our lives.
Psalm 139:1-3

The Real God Looks Like Jesus Christ.

John 14:1-11

Luke 15:1-2

John 7:53-8:11

John 11:35

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 His way to meet our needs.

How Do You Primarily See God?

The Truth Is, We Can Only Love The Real God.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

If we wake up and God is already disappointed in us...doesn't even know we are awake...it is hard for us to love that God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

If our God is distant, inspecting, or disappointed in us—it is hard to pass that love along to someone else (Matthew 22:37-40: "Love your neighbor as yourself.")

It is easy to love a God who is excited that we're up and anxiously waiting to take great care of us.

Let's meditate on 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.*

Let's think for a moment on the implications of Jesus' desiring a relationship with us based on Revelation 3:20: *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

By the way, during the next two Sundays we will examine the following two topics:

- *Our view of God is shaped positively or painfully through:*
 1. *Life events*
 2. *Religious traditions and experiences*
 3. *Growing up experiences*
- *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*