

What is God Like?

(Part 2)

Set the Stage

-God reveals His name as Jehovah

-I AM THAT I AM

-Now He begins to “proclaim” His name or tell us what He is like or who He is.

-This is how God wants to be known. This is how He wants you to think of Him.

-First and foremost...this is my name and this is who I am.

Read Exodus 34:6-7

-God proclaiming His name means...

-When God proclaimed His name He started with what is most important and from there began to share that:

1. He is merciful and gracious
2. He is long-suffering.

-“*Everything the Lord says autobiographically is something God is or does **for the benefit of others.***” Kevin D. Zuber

-Everything that God reveals about Himself is for our good.

What does this reveal about God?

Taking it Further

As we continue learning what God is like, first, we see that that...

1. Jehovah is Abundant in Goodness and Truth

A. What abundant in goodness and truth means.

-Abundant means that He is overflowing with or He has more than enough to give out.

-Your translation may have love and truth or love and faithfulness.

1. Goodness - loyal love, unfailing kindness,

lovingkindness.

- Abundant in goodness/love talks about His goodness being beyond what we deserve. It is way above our conception.

- Psalm 136 repeats 26 times that God's goodness lasts forever. It never runs out.

- Psalm 73:1 - after a severe trial in his life he says "Truly God is good!"

2. Truth - that which corresponds to reality, reliable, trustworthy, certain, or sure.

- He tells the truth and tells the truth about Himself.

- There are times that we will over sell who we are.

 - For a job, internship, or relationship.

 - We say more than we can deliver.

- God does not oversell Himself. What He says about Himself is certain. What He says that He will do. Guaranteed!

B. God shows what abundant in goodness and truth looks like.

- People will often complain that God is not good because of His justice, suffering they experience, trials in their life, or evil in the world.

- God connects His goodness/love with truth! Think about that!

- Why does He connect these specific two?*

 - It is all about God's loyalty. He will never abandon His people. He is faithful to the very end no matter what.

 - Goodness and truth put together means that His goodness is established by promise.

- The truth is that God must be good! He cannot be different.
- God wants you to know He can be trusted.

- All types of circumstances will come up in life that will cause us to question the goodness of God.
- He connects goodness to truth so we can know he is good regardless of what it going on.

As Jehovah continues making Himself know, secondly, He reveals that...

2. Jehovah is Forgiving

A. What being forgiving means.

- Forgiving means to carry away or take away.
 - God forgives all types of offenses against Him and His law.
 - To the forgiven, God lifts the guilt off our shoulders. He takes it away to where we can't find it anymore.
1. **Iniquity** - wrongdoing. Turning away from what is right to what is wrong.
 - You making the choice to do something wrong or go somewhere you shouldn't
 2. **Transgression** - rebellion - betraying a covenant
 - You doing something against another person.
 3. **Sin** - any type of moral failure.

B. God shows what being forgiving looks like.

- To the guilty, God is eager to forgive. He is itching to forgive.
- Like a waiter that asks, "How can I help you," God asks, "How can I forgive you."
- God is **forgiving**, sin is **unforgiving**.
- Sin is dehumanizing. When we sin we miss the mark of what our Creator intended in our lives.

- When we repent, God responds with mercy.
- It is through God's mercy that we can be forgiven.

-There is a difference between being remorseful and repentant. What is the difference?

- Remorse is feeling guilty of doing it or getting caught but not enough to completely turn away from it.
- Repentance is us acknowledging the sin and turning away from it.
- In remorse you don't take active steps to stop. You keep hanging around, keep placing yourself in situations. Remorse allows you to continue through the guilt.

As Jehovah continues making Himself know, thirdly, He reveals that...

3. Jehovah is Just

A. What being just means.

- Just means - He is perfectly righteous in His treatment of His creatures. God is morally right, fair, and righteous in all that He does.
- God will deal with the sin in our lives one way or the other. It's in **mercy** or **justice**. It's our choice!
- We may treat sin flippantly or not that seriously but God does not.
- He takes it seriously, to the point of death.
- Just because God is compassionate and gracious does not mean the guilty who remain unrepentant get a free pass.

B. God shows what being just looks like.

- When we repent God shows mercy.

- When we don't repent, God will only wait so long before His justice must take place.
- God is just to the unrepentant, God is merciful to the repentant. He is a God of justice, but He is also very much a God of overflowing compassion.

-*How can you reconcile the fact that God is merciful and just?* Mercy and justice seem like polar opposites.

-Mercy and justice meet in Jesus Christ.

-God was just in requiring that His son die on the cross. Sin must be paid for. You breaking God's law must be paid for.

-God was merciful in giving His Son to die on the cross.

-Mercy is not overlooking the law. Mercy is providing a way to be forgiven and allowing that way to satisfy the law.

-These two truths are what make the Gospel such good news.

-The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ came to die for you. He took your punishment on the cross. He died, was buried, and rose three days later.

-*"In the cross of Christ, God's justice and God's love met. He satisfied his own righteous demands, so that he could show grace to those who come to his Son in faith."* Tony Evans

-It is in Jesus that the tension between mercy & justice is finally resolved.

Taking Your Next Step

Read Exodus 20:6-7

- God expects that since He shared His name, His children would use His name.

- One of the commandments on the tablets deals directly with God's name. He tells us not to take His name in vain.
- There is a severe penalty - *"God will not hold him guiltless"*
 - God does not take this lightly and will hold us accountable.
- He is merciful but He is also just. Those two truths will eventually meet up.

How can we use God's name in vain?

1. By defining God ourselves.

- We can so easily create a God of our liking in our minds.
 - This is when we expect God to act or be a certain way.
 - When He doesn't meet our expectations we get frustrated, upset, or talk against God.
- We are trying to define God by our expectations and not by how He defines Himself.
- Here we are breaking two commandments.
 1. Creating an idol
 2. Taking God's name in vain.

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