

315 Faith Discipleship: God & “Why?”

Feb. 19th 40-45 minutes

Script:

Key Truth: - Image A (on screen)

“Everything in your life, your worldview, the way you think, worship, speak, love, behave, react, believe, relax, work, &/or feel - Is directly related to what you know & believe about God.”

(Question): Who/What is God?

God is the Boss - God is the Creator of All things. As Pastor said a couple weeks ago, “God is the Uncaused / First Cause” God has always been and will always Be. Think on that for a bit - We often can come close to wrapping our mind around Immortality...or Living forever. Movies, Comic Books, Games...But we usually think of this in one direction - forward, onward. God is eternal is both directions. He is outside of time, outside of space, Both in and out of what we would consider our Dimension, Our World, Our Reality.

(Question): We are what is theologically called “Trinitarians”...a big word for folks who believe in the Trinitarian God..... the Triune God...you’ve heard this said before as the “Trinity”. So....What is the Trinity?

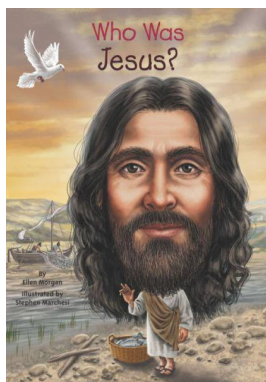
Father - Son - Holy Spirit Three persons but One God. All equal Not Separate. Who do we pray to? Usually Jesus, right? How come? Well, He kinda told us we could or should, right? “When you ask for anything in my name....”

(Question): In What Ways Do We Know God?

In other words, how does God allow us to know Him? We might say, How does God reveal Himself to Us?

- Revelation, right? The Bible, His Word. His Creation. Prayer. - All good reasons.

(Questions on Jesus): Image B (On Screen)



I love these books. We have a bunch of them at the house. “Who was Michael Jackson?” - “Who was Walt Disney?” - “Who is Dolly Parton?” - “Who is Ben Franklin”? They’re cool books.

- Can you spot what is wrong with the title of this one?
- “Was?” It should read “Who IS Jesus?”

Names of Jesus: Jesus of Nazareth - Messiah - The Christ - The Word - The Son of Man

Video: “Are God & Jesus The Same Person?” (4 minutes)

Jesus never said He was God?

- Wrong. He most definitely did say it. He said it & He demonstrated it.... A lot.

Image C (On Screen)

- "Very truly I tell you, . . . before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58)

Image D (On Screen)

- Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

Image E (On Screen)

- Jesus' Prophecies: Over 350 Prophecies fulfilled

What Are The Chances?

Finally, he submitted his figures for review to a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation. Upon examination, they verified that his calculations were dependable and accurate in regard to the scientific material presented. For example, concerning Micah 5:2, where it states the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the professor and his students determined the average population of BETHLEHEM from the time of Micah to the present; then they divided it by the average population of the earth during the same time period. They concluded that the chance of one man being born in Bethlehem was one in 300,000

After examining only eight different prophecies, they conservatively estimated that the chance of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies was one in 10^{17} . To illustrate how large the number 10^{17} is (a figure with 17 zeros), the professor gave this illustration: If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They'll cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up the one silver dollar that has the special mark on it. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would've had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time.

(Image F on screen) **10^{17}**

Quote:

"Any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact, proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world."

<https://empower.global/the-mathematical-probability-that-jesus-is-the-christ/>

(Question):

God is good, holy, perfect - He made everything and He calls all the shot. So, Why is there Sin? Why not make us, you know....without Sin?

FreeWill & God's Glory

Where did Evil come From:

Chapter 3 of Genesis...The Fall. Sin enters the world and results in "bad stuff".

(Question):

Since We're Talking about Bad Stuff - If God is so Good & Holy, Why does He allow Bad Stuff to Happen? Why is there Sadness & Suffering in the World?

VIDEO: Introduction to Final Part

Achan - Joshua 7:

Quickly run through the story of Achan and why it was a big deal.

Mention Lot's wife (**Genesis 19**)the dude (**Uzzah, 2nd Sam. 6:7**) that touched the ark of the covenant. There are tons of things in the Bible that when we read them or see them they seem Over the Top...if not, just plain Wrong. The same is true in our life today, we haven't stopped trusting God, but sometimes it seems that things we see or experience...shouldn't be, right?

God Is Not Wrong: (Image G on screen)

God is not wrong. That may come as an obvious statement, but I believe it is one worth noting. When we read of Achan's entire family (even the livestock) being stoned for his offense against God - if we're honest- we think, "man, why did the kids and the goats have to die?" We see these accounts through human eyes and associate human situations to events of the Bible. As a result, there is a tendency to feel as if God steps over the line from time to time. In the stories we listed before - When you study them you find out that God actually has some legit strong reasons for what He did there. Sometimes we can see or discover His motives - other times we can't. It's Almost like this - He Is GOD...all knowing. He already has seen the End. He has not only read the last page of the BookHe wrote it. He knows how it works out and We do not. We view the Bible...and we view this world we experience with limited knowledge, through Human eyes.

IMAGE: (Image H on screen) Eric's Equation for "Is it Wrong?"

If I read an account in the Bible or make an observation about the world that seems to indicate injustice, unethical treatment, or inequity - I am left with this analysis: God has done something - God is not & cannot be wrong, incorrect, unjust, or evil. Therefore, the account or observation in question is either "not wrong" or my understanding is incomplete or incorrect.

Let's stop here for a moment and clarify something. We don't have to like everything we read in Scripture. We don't have to be happy about everything that happens to us in life. It is ok to wonder, "why?". It is ok to tell God, "I don't understand..." Just because something was sad, unjust, or just plain unacceptable to us - doesn't mean the act was "wrong". This outcome had to happen or in many ways, this was what happened according to God's perfect Will.

CLOSE

JOB: - Rehash the end of the book of Job.

God has not told us Why? He does not owe us an explanation. He is God.

Quote: Check out this Quote:

"But this is also something that Christians need to keep in mind. In our understanding of the world, our understanding of history, our understanding of humanity, indeed even of evil and sin and criminality, we do understand that in this life we will **never** have adequate answers to the question of why." - Dr. Albert Mohler

So where does that leave us? Back to where we started actually, Who is God? Is He in Charge? Do we TRUST Him to be in charge? Remember at the end of the biblical story, every eye is dry and every tear is wiped away among those who are in Christ. Here & Now though, we're not there yet.

Listen to this from Dr. Craig (the Problem of Evil Authority)

". . . even though the problem of evil is the greatest objection to the existence of God, at the end of the day God is the only solution to the problem of evil. If God does not exist, then we are locked without hope in a world filled with gratuitous and unredeemed suffering. God is the final answer to the problem of evil, for He redeems us from evil and takes us into the everlasting joy of an incommensurable good, fellowship with Himself."

William Lane Craig-

We've all heard the verse, "all things work for His Good" All things work to God's plan. This can seem like a cop out or something we're just supposed to accept and believe. It's not much comfort, huh? This all seems pretty hollow IF & only IF God is not who He says He is!

For if (& because) He IS.....We can Trust, He has a plan...We can Trust the junk and suffering of this world is only for a season...and one day all will be right. See this is Faith....This is why Hope has value. In humans this is worthless but with GOD this is rock solid truth that we can lean on when the suffering comes.

IMAGE: (Image I on screen)

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! - Romans 11:33 NLT

IMAGE: (Image J on screen)

We talked about Tattoos a couple weeks ago. I doubt I'll ever get one, but if I did It would probably be something revolving around an ichthus (Jesus Fish) and have "Even if..." & "So Be It..." on it somewhere.

Even If...So Be It... He is Sovereign - I will Trust Him

We are not guaranteed to ever know or see the outcome of Gods plans..... There are not always answers....or closure. But Jesus doesn't change. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. HIS GREATNESS does not change nor does his love or promises expire. He is on the Throne and He is in Charge. He hasn't turned His Back on Us.

Prayer: End
