

Same God Different Seasons

3-25-26

8 - When God Reveals Himself

I. Announce:

A. Welcome to those watching online.

B. Slide1-5 Starting Point. Fresh Faith. Class. Crosswalk. Church Campout. Prayer /

C. Prayer:

II. Slide6 Intro:

A. What has taken your breath away? I think it was the first trip into Kathmandu Airport. Everyone was looking out the window and taking photos. Being an aisle-guy, I'm straining to look out a couple different windows, but then I saw it. We were flying at 34,000' and we were just above the Cloud line that looked like a blanket. Now you shouldn't see anything else up there at that altitude. Slide7 But there was Everest at 29,031' in all her glory, jutting through the cloud layer, it was so majestic. I couldn't get close enough to the window to take the picture, so I made this with AI, but it's forever seared in my thoughts and remembrance. [2 mount Whitney's, highest mnt peak in the contiguous US]

1. My feelings were awe, and just absolutely inspired, amazed that God formed a mountain this high, with His spoken Word.

2. I've seen pictures. I've heard people describe it. But when you're actually there... it's different. (I also had the privilege to helicopter up to base camp, 18,000' - you only get 10 minutes before altitude sickness gets you, so we jumped out and ran around taking pictures of it. Here's 2) Slide8,9,10.

B. You don't just understand it - you Experience it. And for a moment, everything else gets quiet ... Your problems don't disappear... but they shrink.

1. There's a difference between knowing about something... and seeing it for yourself. And when God reveals Himself, it's like that!

a) Not new information, but a new clarity. [& suddenly everything else finds its place]

- C. Slide11 Last one of our Series, *Same God, Different Seasons, When God Reveals Himself* - This isn't just *another season*, it's the culmination of all the others.
- D. Big Idea: When God reveals **Himself**, *everything else finds its place*.
- E. What Do We Actually Need Most? - We spend a lot of our lives asking God for things: (Answers. Direction. Relief. Clarity).
1. But the greatest gift God gives is **NOT** what He does for us. It's when He shows us who He is! pause
 - a) Because when you truly see **God**, it changes how you see *everything else*.

III. Slide12a 1 WHAT DOES "GOD REVEALING HIMSELF" MEAN?

- A. God revealing Himself is **not**: New truth outside Scripture. **Nor** a constant emotional experience.
- B. God revealing Himself is: A deeper awareness of **who He already is**.
A clearer sight of **His character**. A more personal encounter with **His presence**.
 1. Supremely, God has revealed Himself in **Jesus Christ**.
 - a) *Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father*. John 14:9.
- C. Slide12b What do you think is the difference between knowing about God and truly knowing Him?

IV. Slide13a 2 BIBLICAL MOMENTS OF REVELATION

A. A few anchors:

1. **Moses** - Ex.33:18 *Show me Your glory*. And God reveals **His name** and **character**.
 - a) 34:5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and *proclaimed the name of the LORD*. Moses wanted to see God, **but rather** than telling us what he saw, the Bible tells us what he **heard**.
 - b) Then God explained the meaning of *His name*^(33:19) by listing some of **His perfections**.

(1) He told Moses about *His compassion and grace, his patience and love, his faithfulness and forgiveness.*

(2) This is what God wanted Moses to see: the goodness of His divine nature. And in a way, this was also His glory. *For what is the glory of God? It is the weightiness of His being, the totality of His perfections*

c) Moses wanted to see God. So God said, *“All right. Come up here and I’ll show you who I am. **BUT** if you really want to **know me**, it’s not about **seeing** what I look like - It’s about **knowing** my infinite perfections, especially as I display them in the salvation of sinners.”*¹

(1) So God preached His Word to Moses, proclaiming His Sacred Name, and announcing His sovereign attributes.

(2) This is what we need as well! Not so much to see what God looks like, but to **hear** *the true words* that God has spoken about Himself.

2. **Isaiah** - Isaiah 6 *I saw the Lord...* Result: *Awe. Humility. Calling.*

3. **Job** - Job 42:5 *Now my eyes have seen You.* - After all the *pain, confusion, silence* ... God reveals Himself. Ch’s 38-42.

4. **The Disciples** - in the Gospels. They don’t just hear about God, they walk with Him.

B. **Slide13b** Which do you think is more powerful: getting answers from God, or encountering God? Why?

V. **Slide14a 3 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD REVEALS HIMSELF**

A. This is the heart of our message.

B. Clarity Without Full Explanation

1. People **don’t** always get *answers*, but they get **peace**.

2. You can have *unanswered questions* and still have **settled trust**.

C. Awe Replaces Anxiety

1. When Isaiah sees God, he doesn’t say hey, *“What about my problems?”*

¹ Ryken, P. G., & Hughes, R. K. (2005). Exodus: saved for God’s glory (p. 1041). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

2. He says: *Woe is me...* [God gets bigger. Problems get smaller]

D. Identity Gets Re-rooted

1. When you see God rightly: You see **yourself** rightly. You see **others** rightly.
You see **your situation** differently.

E. Calling Becomes Clear

1. **Isaiah**: *Here am I, send me.*

2. **Peter**: *Depart from me... then follows Jesus.*

3. **Paul**: Encounter → mission. (Damascus rd exp → apostle to the Gentiles)

a) **Revelation leads to response**. [Revelation is not something we **manufacture**. It is something **God** *graciously* **gives**]

F. **Slide14b** Have you ever experienced **peace** *without* having all your questions answered? What was that like? (moms death)

VI. Slide15 4 THE THREAD THROUGH OUR WHOLE SERIES

A. Let's tie it all together.

1. When God is near - we feel **His** comfort

2. When God is distant - we trust **His** character

3. When God does not answer - we rest in **His** wisdom

4. When God speaks - we surrender to **His** voice

5. When God allows pain - we cling to **His** cross

6. When God allows joy - we steward **His** gifts

7. When God does not make sense - we trust what **He** has already made clear.

8. **When God reveals Himself - we Worship in awe.**

VII. Slide16a 5 THE CHRIST-CENTERED CULMINATION

A. The clearest revelation of God is **not** a moment ... **It's a Person**.

1. **Jesus Christ = God made visible. God made known. God made near.**

2. If you want to know **what God is like**, you **don't** start with your *circumstances, experiences, feelings, Or mountaintop moments.*
You start with **Jesus!**

B. **Slide16b** How does *looking at Jesus* shape or correct your understanding of what God is like?

VIII. **Slide17a 6 WHAT WE DO WHEN GOD REVEALS HIMSELF?**

A. What do we do when God reveals Himself? *We worship. We surrender. We remember.*

1. Don't move too quickly past moments where God makes Himself known.

B. **Slide17b** How can we *remember* moments where God has revealed Himself to us?

1. **A:** Sit. Wait. Ponder. Ask. Think. Listen. Wait some more.

C. **Closing Moment**

D. The goal of your life is *not to figure everything out.* The goal is to **know God.**

E. And when you **see Him clearly** ... you realize He has been faithful in every season.

1. **Same God: Near or distant. Silent or speaking. In pain or in joy. Confusing or clear.** [**and** the greatest gift He gives is **Himself**]

F. **Prayer:** Close your eyes & sit in these 2 questions for a minute: **Is there an area in your life right now where you need to *see God more clearly* rather than just get answers?**
- If God gave you **more of Himself**, **but not** more answers... would that be enough?

G. **End Song:** (our theme song thru this series) *I Can't Get Away.*

1. ***I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.*** Phil.4:12 so let's sing ...

2. I've been to the **bottom** I've been to the **top**. I can't run away - Your love will never stop. With me in the **morning** - in the dead of **night**. You're not leaving!

H. **Keywords:** reveal, revelation, God.