

Encountering God

Main Point: When we encounter God, it's reflected in how we live and worship Him.

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever experienced a life changing moment?
- B. When we experience life changing moments, we can't help but be different. Our life changing encounters are reflected in the way we live our lives.
- C. Psalm 103:19 - "The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all." Have you encountered this Lord in your life?

Life Changing Encounters With God

- A. Moses and the Burning Bush (Exo. 4:18-21).
- B. Isaiah and his vision (Isa. 6:8; Heb. 11:36-38).
- C. Centurion at the Cross (Matt. 27:51-54).
- D. Peter and the other Apostles after the Resurrection (Acts 2:14; 36).

QUESTION #1: What possessed these people to do what they did and to go to such extremes for the cause of God? They saw God differently after their encounter with Him and it changed their lives.

QUESTION #2: Have we encountered God in such a way that our lives have drastically changed?

Encountering God In Our Lives

- A. Look for God's Power
 - 1. Paul mentions the immeasurable greatness of God's power (Eph. 1:17-19).
 - 2. Throughout scripture we see God's immeasurable power on display through the life and work of Jesus (Jn. 10:30). This power is evident through the Demonic man (Mk. 5), the Lepers (Lk. 17) and Lazarus (Jn. 11)
 - 3. Recall a time in your life when God's power was on display? Maybe during a great obstacle in your life.
- B. Look back on God's Provisions
 - 1. Time and time again God provided for the Israelites even though they sometimes thought they were going to die (Ex. 16:1-3).
 - 2. Every good and perfect gift we have comes from above (Jam. 1:17).
 - 3. Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount should bring great comfort to our lives (Mt. 6:25-34).

C. Look at God's Pity

1. Why did God rescue the children of Israel out of Egypt? (Ex. 3:7-10; Isa. 63:7-9).
2. God took pity on us when He sent His son to the cross on our behalf (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
3. David's response to God's mercy after He was forgiven should be the same kind of response you and I have when we reflect on God's mercy in our lives (Psalm 32:1-2).

Conclusion:

- A. If our lives are not drastically different, then perhaps we haven't really encountered God. Perhaps we are just going through the motions.
- B. When you truly encounter God, it is reflected in how you live and worship.
- C. Most people want Jesus to be their friend, comforter and provider, but few want Him to be their LORD!
- D. Has your encounter with God drastically changed your life?