

"The Weight of Glory"

Exodus 3:1-6

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INTRO: Captain Benjamin Allman

Ex 3:1-6 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is **holy ground**." ⁶And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Holiness; the First Step of Many

Holiness: being separate or apart; being sanctified

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (NIV)

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

God's first interaction with Moses wasn't telling him to be more like Him...it was an interaction of who God was, and who Moses was.

Deepening your walk with God doesn't start with reading the Bible, praying, or even doing the things God has called us to...

*This lack of fear towards God, in the sense of being afraid of His judgements, is actually the very root of wickedness. John Calvin wrote, "All wickedness flows from a disregard of God...since the fear of God is the bridle by which our wickedness is kept in check, its removal free us to indulge in every kind of licentious conduct." **Jerry Bridges** "The Joy of Fearing God" pg. 20*

Are you Holy? "Shall you see the Lord?" Do you know who God is? Is your wickedness connected with your lack of fearing God?

Who am I Fearing?

We are called to be Holy, but we don't actually understand what that looks like...

Isaiah didn't understand what it looked like either until God showed him!

Isaiah 6:1-7 *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" 4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."*

Doubling as a stylistic technique to provide emphasis...

Only once in sacred Scripture is an attribute of God elevated to the third degree. Only once is a characteristic of God mentioned three times in succession. The Bible says that God is holy, holy, holy. Not that He is merely holy, or even holy, holy. He is holy, holy, holy. The Bible never says God is love, love, love; or mercy, mercy, mercy; or wrath, wrath, wrath; or justice, justice, justice. It does say the He is holy, holy, holy, that the whole earth is full of His glory. RC Sproul "The Holiness of God" pg. 26

Do you see your relationship with the Lord as one of buddy-buddy friends, or as a fearful reverence to the Holy God?

"The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" – Aslan

Is God safe? The Scriptures teach us that in His grace and mercy God allows Himself to be our place of refuge. However, there's a larger sense in which God definitely is not safe. Yet in our thinking about Him we've tried to make Him exclusively safe. It's not longer in good taste in most quarters to speak of the judgement of God or His impending wrath. When we talk about God's "unconditional love" we often mean He simply overlooks or ignores our sinful behavior and would never judge anyone. But God isn't that way at all. Scripture tell us that "our God is a consuming fire," and cautions us therefore to worship Him "with reverence and awe". No, God isn't safe---but He's good. And we must keep both these truths in mind if we are to understand and practice the fear of God. Jerry Bridges "The Joy of Fearing God" pg. 23