



Week 2

Feasting on Who our God Is

Do you normally start with what God has done and then go back to think about Who He is? We do that, don't we? It's not a bad thing. We think about what He's done and then stop and think, "Who *are* You that You would do something like that – for me?" It's an amazing truth that the Lord's glory has always been tied to the care He takes of His people. We began with forgiveness – what God has done. Now we will think about Who God is. Did we get the order wrong? It may seem so to some of you. That's ok. But to others, it may seem fitting. How many of you have heard a wonderful song, or seen a

beautiful painting, only to ask, “Who wrote that?” or “Who painted that?” Sometimes, we don’t give the author a thought until we’re blown away by what he’s done.

When you think about who God is, what words come to your mind? How would you describe Him?

Read Exodus 32-34 and answer the following questions:

In light of all that has occurred in these chapters, are you surprised at how the Lord chooses to reveal His glory to Moses?

What attributes does God choose to highlight? What reasons can you think of for Him doing so?

Pick one or two of those attributes and look them up in the dictionary. What do they tell you about our God?

If you had been God, are there other attributes you would have chosen to highlight? Why does God renew His covenant with His people after such grave sin? Who does all of this point to?

Perhaps God chose to reveal Himself as the God of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and filled with unending love and faithfulness, lavishing unending love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion and sin, because in a moment of great sin, those are the last things we expect from Him. We expect judgment. We know that’s what we deserve, and it’s what we would execute, were we in His place. We expect the God of the universe to have the authority to judge – that goes without saying. What we don’t expect, what we would never be able to assume on our own, is that this Sovereign and Majestic God would show us His glory by being merciful towards us. It’s such a surprise, it can be disorienting in its unexpectedness. “You’re showing me *what?*”

At a point in Scripture where we would think it legitimate if God reemphasized His authority and His right to withdraw His covenant from them, He, instead, emphasized His compassion and mercy and unending, covenant-keeping love. That is the glory, the goodness He chose to reveal to Moses as He passed by.



The wonder of those attributes would resound with the people of Israel throughout the Old Testament. They would remind themselves of these attributes, and appeal to God on the basis of them, again and again. It was the Gospel to them! Good news that they would revel in, and that they would take for granted.



Choose a few of the following verses to read and meditate on:

Psalm 86:15-17

Psalm 145

Isaiah 30

Lamentations 3:22 (NIV)

Micah 7:18-20

Which of these attributes is particularly meaningful to you right now?

Perhaps now would be a wonderful time to watch *Les Misérables* and ponder the very different effect startling grace had on the lives of two men. It's a beautiful depiction of the power of God's unexpected mercy and love.

Why does grace have such different effects on people? What causes us to be suspicious of it?

How have you wrestled with God's mercy, compassion and slowness to anger? How have you feasted on it?



Not only would the people remind themselves of how God chose to define His glory to them, God Himself would remind them of who He was in times of trouble.

Read and meditate on the following verses:

Hosea 2:14-23

Joel 2:12-13

Zechariah 10:6

What do you have to say to this glorious God of ours?

Take time to linger over this beautiful poem by a woman named Annie Flint:

*He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase,
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.
When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,*

*When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.
Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.
His love has no limits, His grace has no measure.
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*



The story of God's revealing His glory through the salvation of His people continues on in the person of Jesus. Looking at Him we see the very essence of who God is. His words, His actions, His mission are God's. And as He goes to the cross to bring salvation for His people, we see God's compassion, His mercy, His unfailing love and faithfulness on full display. The Final Word has been spoken.

Read John 17

On the night before He was to be crucified, Jesus prayed that the Father would glorify Him, in order that He (Jesus) could give glory back to the Father. Can it be true? Is His death on the cross the thing that will bring glory to both Jesus and the Father? Oh yes! Only God would save rebels like us! Only God! Any other leader would treat us as traitors deserve to be treated. Only God would make enemies His children! His salvation of His people puts His glory on full display once again.

And so, we are back to how God chose to make Himself known to Moses. In the face of utter sin and rebellion, God surprises us by showing us His compassion, His mercy, His unfailing love. Jesus' death in our place is the biggest, most disorienting surprise of all. A surprise that only God could –or would - give. All for His glory! The God whose very character is worthy of feasting upon invites us to savor His glory! And so we feast!

Listen:

Who but Jesus by Laura Story

<https://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/who-but-jesus-laura-story>

Who but You from The Story CD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8o3T1S3xBAs>

The Blessing by Cody Carnes and Kari Jobe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZJFhh93FGc>

Enjoy this short podcast by Emily P. Freeman

<https://emilypfreeman.com/podcast/the-next-right-thing/111/>

Other resources:

Delighting in the Trinity by Michael Reeves

None like Him by Jen Wilken

The book of Romans from The Message