

# Sermon Notes

## The Most Important Question – Mark 8:29

### August 17, 2025

#### I. Introduction

**Who is your God? Ask yourself if what you are thinking about God is actually found in the Bible or has been pieced together from less reliable sources. Lynn Eib**

- who's your daddy... for most people, their view of God is pieced together from **etp**, not biblical truth... most important question you'll ever have to answer... Mark 8:27-30... "who do people say I am... but you, **who do you** say I am..."
- beliefs about God shape your life... lies lead to bondage, truth leads to freedom... John 8:32... "you will know the truth... and the truth will set you free..." Heb 1:3... "the Son is the exact image of the Father..." 1John 3:1-2... "when He is revealed... we shall see Him as He is..."
- series will probably reveal some unbiblical things you may have believed about God... good seed planted in good hearts always produces good harvests... **pray**... Prov 4:20-23... "pay attention... listen... my words bring life and health..." Mark 4:24... "be careful what you are hearing... measure of thought and study you give **to the truth** you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you..." Luke 8:15... "seed in good ground... heard word with good heart... produce fruit..."

#### II. Important Question

**The Gospel can mean nothing to a man until he sees a vision of God. Low views of God destroy the Gospel for all who hold them. We can never know who or what we are until we know at least something of who God is. AW Tozer**

- what keeps us from abundant life... lack of knowledge and unbelief... Hosea 4:6... "people destroyed for lack of knowledge... rejected knowledge..." Luke 24:25... "how foolish you are and slow to believe all the prophets..." Eph 4:18 **GSV**... "alienated... shut out from fellowship and intimacy... shut out from the absolute fullness of life that belongs to God... because of lack of knowledge and unbelief..."
- despite all the world's knowledge at our fingertips... often ignorant of who God is... hearts hardened because we look to the world for answers... not the Word... 2Pet 1:1-3... "grace and peace multiplied thru **precise and correct** knowledge of God... His power has given everything required for life thru **precise and correct** knowledge of Him..."
- who is God... helps to understand His many **names**... look closely... He Himself is the blessing, not just the thing... can't receive that until you **know who He is**... **Elohim** (Gen 1:1; Jer 31:33) - Creator, plural, signifies power and might... **Adonai** (Psa 8:1) - meaning *Lord or Master*, reflects God's authority... **El Shaddai** (Gen 17:1) - *God Almighty*, emphasizes His ultimate power and sufficiency... **Yahweh/Jehovah** (Exo 3:15) - personal name, eternal existence, covenant relationship... **Yahweh Shalom** (Judg 6:24) - **God is** our safety, peace, wholeness, prosperity... **Yahweh Rapha** (Exo 15:26) - God is our healing... **Yahweh Rohi** (Psa 23:1) - **God is** our shepherd... **Yahweh Tsidkenu** (Jer 33:16) - God is our righteousness... **Yahweh Jireh** (Gen 22:14) - the Lord will provide, reflects God's provision for our needs...

- Elohim, Adonai, El Shaddai... names signify ultimate power, might, authority... sometimes say God is sovereign, which He is... but does that mean that He controls everything... **no**... go deeper on this later... but need to touch on it today... 1Tim 6:15... "He is the blessed and only **Sovereign**, the King of Kings..." **dynastes**... a prince, potentate; high officer, royal minister of great authority... **Websters**... supreme ruler; possessing supreme or ultimate power; superlative, most exalted... KJV, NKJV, YLT - 0 CSB, LSB, NASB, DBY - 1 ESV, RSV - 3 NLT, NIV - 280+
- Jews referred to the purpose of God's power... to redeem, provide, sanctify, heal, bring peace, offer righteousness... His names give us descriptions of that power... but they **never believed God controlled** everything... yes, God is sovereign... He is supreme in power and authority... but thru free will, you control life, not Him...
- when we go thru a tragedy... death, disease, difficulty... many people ask the same question... *why did God allow this to happen*... often get the same answers... they don't really help... even if they are well-intentioned to make us feel better... *God is in control... everything happens for a reason... God is testing you... God needed another angel in heaven... He gives and takes away... His ways are higher... if it doesn't kill you, it will make you stronger... God is punishing you... if God leads you to it, He'll lead you thru it...*  
**The road to hell is paved with good intentions. St Bernard of Clairvaux - 12<sup>th</sup> Century**
- can be difficult to reconcile a good God with tragedy and suffering... most believe God is good... just not 100% good... and 10% bad will outweigh 90% good... so **how can we know** if a situation is God or the devil trying to steal, kill, destroy... Matt 7:11... "how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts..." John 10:10... "*devil* comes to steal, kill, destroy... I have come to bring life in abundance..." James 1:17... "every good and perfect gift is from above... from the Father..." 3John 2... "I wish above all things... that you may prosper and be in good health..."
- break it down as simply as I can... God good, devil bad... all the time... but, how can we know what is good and what is bad... society blurs the line... Isa 5:20... "what sorrow to those who call evil good and good evil... who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness... who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter..."
- don't let **etp** tell you what is a blessing or a curse... the bible is **very clear**... stop calling evil good and good evil... important to know who God is and what He does... Deut 28:1-14... "all these **blessings** will overtake you... towns and fields will be blessed... children and crops... herds and flocks... wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed... the Lord will conquer your enemies... guarantee a blessing... rain in its time... bless all your work... lend, not borrow... head, not tail... always be on top and never at the bottom..." Deut 28:15-68... "all these **curse**s will overtake you... confusion and frustration... diseases, fever, inflammation... drought... defeated by enemies... children taken away as slaves... panic, madness... oppressed and robbed continually... hungry, thirsty, naked... every sickness and plague not recorded... no peace, no rest... heart will tremble, soul will despair... fear, terror..."
- to learn something new, we must unlearn something old... **who's your Daddy** will separate biblical truth from worldly lies... see just how good God really is... **pray**... Job 42:3-5... "heard rumors about You... now my eyes have seen You..." Mark 4:24... "be careful what you are hearing..." 1Cor 8:2... "if anyone thinks they know anything... don't know it as they ought..." 1Cor 13... "love is patient, kind... bears, believes, hopes, endures all things... never ends..." 1John 4:8... "God is love..."

**Forget what you've heard. What you think you know. There's a lot about Me that's never been told. I'm more than you dreamed. More than you understand. I'm more than you think I am. Danny Gokey**