

Honey, They Shrunk My God!

Galatians 5:-5 (ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 5 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Looking at The promise in Galatians 5 We are trying to position ourselves to receive all that God has for us.. We want to produce Juicy Spiritual Fruit Jesus told us that we could only produce fruit if we stayed connected to Him. So we have started this series...making sure... That we are developing deep roots.... Those roots are only developed alone with Jesus No one can spend time with Jesus for you...

In fact...if you life is lacking...love, joy, peace, patience..Can I just say to you with love... If you are a Christ follower....it is your fault You have not prioritized your time with Jesus... Because if you had....these fruits of that relationship are promised Not from me but from Jesus. ..

John 5:5 (ESV) 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Do you see the word "whoever"? It doesn't say...some of you will grow fruit... It doesn't say...whoever abides in me will bear fruit. This is a stronger promise...whoever abides in me will bear MUCH fruit. So if you ain't producing...you ain't abiding...just saying.

Let me add that abiding with Jesus....Includes the concept that you are dependent upon Him... Not the other way around... The vine is dependent upon the branch.... Jesus says..you are the branch and I am the vine... Our attitude in the Sanctuary.....must be one of surrender.

A lot of us think we abide with Jesus....But our time with Him is essentially us...telling Him what He should be doing. Abiding brings with it the concept of understanding what God is doing And surrendering our plans...our thoughts...our desires...to His.

I call it quiet time....To remind myself to spend time listening. So for the first few weeks of this series....We are using the Psalms...basically worship lyrics written in the Bible to remind us of who God is...looking through a photo album if you will. Reminders of God....To remind us of our first love....and why we fell in love in the first place

Once we reconnect to Jesus...Spending time in the Sanctuary is no longer negotiable...It is necessary. Goal of this series....That I could convince you to stop believing...that anything on earth will bring you greater pleasure...Than an intimate relationship with Jesus.

Our goal is to prioritize that relationship above everything else in our lives.That we can get to a point in our lives.....where we say....Because I know God...I have no other desires above that one. Where we realize how valuable it is to know God...the Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.

Week 1 of this series- We need God's Perspective because ours is limited and flawed. We talked about how we don't know what we don't know. We looked at Esaph's Psalm...Psalm 7 . We saw how Esaph struggled....because he knew God to be good...But from his perspective...God didn't seem good. He recognized that God was not the problem...But rather his limited view...limited understanding of what God was doing.

We saw how his perspective completely changed...When he made the choice to go into the Sanctuary of God. It was in the quiet place with God...where he left his perspective behind and embraced God's view. In the end...Espah says...you know what...they can have all that stuff Because I have YOU.

We recognize that our desire for Jesus...for God may not be where we want it to be...So we are reminding ourselves of How Great God really is...How valuable our relationship with Him is...You see when you increase the value of something it increases your desire for it.

Suppose I told you....that when you leave today....Each of you will receive....an iphone. You will receive a iphone 6. You would think...yeah that is nice....old phone..but ok...It might have some value...so you are ok with it.

But what if I told you...each of you would get **Falcon Supernova iPhone 6 Pink Diamond** – Currently valued at 48.5 Million Dollars Now...you really want it....and a really good protective case for it. That product in that image would be 350 Million Dollars....I hope it is photoshopped.

When the value of something increases.... Your desire for it increases. Let me say this another way....The time you spend with Jesus....directly reflects the value you place on your relationship with Him

If you say you value your relationship with Him...It should be reflected in your priorities. But it is not something we conjure up in us....God shows us how to Love Him....So I want to pause here and allow all of us to pray. Just for a moment....I want you to go before God... And ask Him to reveal to you today...Just how big and how great He is...Pause for Prayer

Every time I turn on the TV, or look at Social Media, Or watch the News....I find myself within just a few minutes wanting to turn to Tammy and scream....HONEY THEY HAVE SHRUNK MY GOD!

Our World is constantly trying to shrink God. To make Him fit into a box where we can control Him. Yet in Psalm 8 we are going to see just how big God really is. When we realize who we are actually talking to....it changes everything about our relationship with Him

Psalm 8Written by David...of David and Goliath fame....King David....this Psalm contains one of the greatest questions to God in the Bible. In this Psalm David reflect on how big God is...He thinks about his own insignificance in comparison....and with a surrendered and humble heart....David asks...What is man....that you are mindful of Him?

David sort of rephrasing what we realized in Week. I have no business being in a relationship with God...He is Holy, pure, perfect...On my best day...I am dirty...sinful...and fallen. Who am I that you are mindful of me?

Many have pondered what David asked...Some seeking answers from God....Knowing that they don't know what they don't know. Others trying to answer the questions themselves...Believing they know all that there is to know.Where do we find our significance?

Carl Sagan was a Pantheist Agnostic....Agnostic means that doesn't believe we have the capacity to know if God exists or not. Carl..like all of us...struggled with our significance. Look at His quote.

"As long as there have been humans we have searched for our place in the cosmos. Where are we? Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people." Carl Sagan

Pantheist...meaning he worshiped creation. Those left to worship Science use words like...insignificant....humdrum...lost.... tucked away...forgotten. Sadly, this is the best answer you can come to.... IF you remove the possibility of God

I think the saddest thing to watch are people who are disconnected from God trying to discover if they have any significance. I watch agnostics and atheists search the world looking for validation and significance....trying to find it in human achievement or human thought. It is pathetic to watch. They all end up so empty, so disillusioned, and so lost.

IF you remove the possibility of God....Every time....that view leaves us hopeless and helpless. Or as Sagan had to conclude, we are like drifting sand on the shores of a cosmic ocean with no significance at all.

Fortunately....David wrote long before Dr. Sagan. In Psalm ..rather than being imprisoned by our limited perspective...We are liberated by God's view....

You see David knew a truth that Carl Sagan sadly missed and so many have never found. Please don't miss this.

THE GLORY OF MANKIND CAN ONLY BE APPRECIATED IN THE LIGHT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.

It is in that moment...when we recognize the Glory of God...

That we find our significance.

It is only in that moment...when you bow in worship because you recognize His glory....you realize His majesty...You find yourself in the presence of Holiness....Perfection...and Wonder. Only in that moment....do you find your significance in Christ There is nothing on earth...nothing ever created...nothing you can create or obtain...that will bring you more pleasure than an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Psalm 8:1 (NIV) 1 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

David starts out by praising God for who He is. The Heavens and Earth are stamped with the glory of its Maker. The Power, Wisdom and Majesty of God.....stagger human consciousness. We speak of the mysteries of our world...yet they are an open book to God. The wisdom evidenced in our natural world....is just a dim reflection of His Wisdom

The amazing power packed into a single atom....Barely represents the power of the One who put it there on the day when He SPOKE it into existence.

David praises God for who He is. He is not some small god like Israel's neighbors worship. He is Yahweh....THE GOD....The sole Creator of Everything Everything on Earth...everything in the universe. And he says...even the universe cannot contain His Glory....

You have set your glory above the Heavens. Everything you created....can't hold your Glory. David is saying....God you are really BIG...The Universe declares your name and your glory.

Think about that for a moment. You want to get an idea of what cannot hold God's Glory? What is too small to hold His glory....**Watch this video...**

Then David says something a bit odd...

Psalm 8:2 (NIV) 2 Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

This is very interesting....God who created all of this...Whose glory is greater than all that He created. He is so majestic...yet He has ordained for children and infants to praise Him. The word infant here literally means infant....one still breast feeding.

God ordains for praise to come out of their mouths....That is weird to me....If you have an infant at home....and they are screaming or babbling nonsense....Just letting you know they may be praising God.

God says...you know what I have ordained...you know what I want? Infants and children praising me. Why would God choose for the infants and children to praise Him? God always seems to be a paradox to us....using the weak to shame the strong

Do you remember that Jesus quotes this verse? Palm Sunday....He has ridden into town on a donkey. People are shouting Hosannah....Glory to God in the Highest... Do you remember that moment?

Matthew :5-6 (ESV) 5 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, 6 and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, " 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"

Picture this...Children...in the temple...screaming out Hosannah. These children are praising Jesus...the way kids do....The educated religious leaders...come to Jesus livid. How dare you...to allow these children to praise you...in the temple of God...Who do you think that you are? Only God can be praised here...

Then Jesus reminds them of David's Prophecy in Psalm 8 Jesus essentially trying to tell the Educated Adults who were supposed to be experts in the Scriptures...intellectual...well versed. Who were supposed to be looking for and recognizing the Promised One. What is happening right here in this moment....David wrote about...hundreds of years before.

You should be doing what the children are doing.... **Matthew :5-6 (ESV) And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, " 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"**

You who claim to be so smart.... You are unwilling to praise me...So I have ordained for these children to do it.

Notice what God reveals through David. The reason these babies praise Jesus? Look at this verse...it is about to blow up.

The praise of infants is a STRONGHOLD.

These babies praising Jesus is a weapon used by God.....to silence enemies, foes and avengers.

Who is the foe and the avenger?...Satan. Children and infants praise Jesus....to silence Satan. How does that work? Why did God choose this? Do you see the contrast....wildly defiant evil powerful Satan...Poised to Kill, Steal and destroy....Scheming...planning...conniving....deceiving...And the weakest of all...a little child....Praising Jesus....From a pure heart....Silences him.

You see our praise....defeats the enemy as we lift up praises to God...The shackles of Satan's schemes unravel....When we praise God like children...totally dependent upon Him. When we worship we take ground back that the enemy has stolen from us. Are you struggling with oppression in your life? Want to silence Satan? Praise Jesus un abandoned like a child. As your praises go up...Satan's schemes to destroy you are silenced.

Your life is to be given to praise God. Do you know one of the greatest ways we praise God? By choosing what He wants rather than what Satan offers. The most positive statement we can make to silence Satan...Is to look at all this world has to offer us.To consider the money...the fame...the power...the praise of other men...To be tempted by Satan...with the temporary desires of this world and to say....no...I'd rather have Jesus.

Satan tried to tempt Jesus in the same way...

Luke 4:3-4 (ESV) 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." 4 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.' "

Jesus said...No its just food...I have the Father.

Luke 4:5-8 (ESV) 5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.' "

Jesus says...No that is just stuff....I have the Father.

We Silence Satan with our praise.....The praises we lift up in song...The praises we lift up through our lives...We Silence Satan when we are tempted with the things of the world. There is nothing that makes Satan brag more....than to tempt the children of God and watch them fail. But there is nothing that silences him faster...than for God's children to say...NO...I would rather have Jesus. This world has nothing for me...I will follow Him

Then one of the most famous verses in the Bible

Psalms 8:3-4 (NIV) 3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

Have you ever spent a night staring at the Stars? I can remember looking up to the Moon (moon Slide) On hot summer night in Texas....Actually it was July 20th, 1969. I was 8 years old...and remember laying out on my trampoline. I was there for hours...just starring at the moon. Just a few hours before....Neil Armstrong had made...One giant step for man and one giant leap for mankind. I remember how amazing it was that people were spending the night on that moon.

But it didn't take long...to realize...that I was really small and the universe was really big. I think David had many nights like that as a Shepherd. Spending the night alone with God...alone with His thoughts.

God the universe...all that has been created...is the work of your fingers. The moon and stars...you put into place. With all of that....when you have all that to consider.....Why in the world...are you mindful of us....of me? Why would you care about us?

That is what spending time alone with Jesus does...David's Sanctuary was often alone with God at night. He took time to consider the heavens. When he looked at the moon and stars....He began to gain God's perspective...Began to see just how Majestic God is... That is hard to wrap you mind around isn't it?

Let's consider just our Milky Way....just our galaxy...[Photo Milky Way](#)....There is not one speck visible to our eyes that represents our entire solar system. We can't see our Sun and all that surrounds it....in this galaxy.

Do you know how big the Milky Way is? A light year...traveling at the speed of light for a year...The speed of light is 86,000 miles/SECOND....86,000 miles in ONE Second Now imagine traveling that fast for one year. That is one light year.

Do you know...how far it is to cross the Milky Way? 100,000 light years....You would have to travel for 86,000 miles per second...For 100,000 years. Can you even try to conceive how big that is? Think about how fast you would fly past earth...The earth is only a few thousand miles in diameter... You would blow past us in the first millisecond.

Did you see all of those galaxies? Do you how many galaxies like the milky way there are? They estimate 50 Billion of Them! 50 Billion Galaxies and we are buried... As a tiny planet...Inside of one of them...Called the Milky Way

It is mind blowing. An yet David says....it is one thing for God to think about us....but look at what he says. "the son of man that you care for him"

It is one thing...to think about us...But He cares for us...The God who created all of this....created you. Not only that....He wants a relationship with you.

On your best day...you don't deserve it.You can't earn it...Think about it...what are you going to do to impress the God...who spoke all of what we just saw into existence?

Now imagine the glory that the universe cannot contain...coming to earth as a helpless baby...Putting aside all of His Majesty...His Glory to die on a cross for you. Allowing His creation to murder Him

How can you possibly think...you are too big...to surrender your plans to His? Because you think you know what is best. Really?

I have set my glory above the heavens...The heavens can't contain Me. If you are fascinated by what I made.....you should see me.

The God who created all of this....Waits to meet you and me...in the Sanctuary. And yet we think...we are too important...too big. That this earth has something to offer us...instead of Him

In a different Psalm.....David said it this way...

Psalm 19:1-4 (NIV) 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

PHOTO The Heavens shout the praises of God...David is saying..every day...and every night...God puts on a show....They display His knowledge..they reveal who He is....There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard... In other words.. it is the universal language. God's knowledge is delivered every day and every night to every person on earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

Think about 100 thousand light years across one galaxy. 100 Billion of those galaxies...And they can't contain the God.....that you and I have been trying to fit in our box. Trying to fit into our busy and important daily schedule

Is there Really.....really.....anything on this earth.....that takes precedence over a relationship with Him?

There is nothing on this earth that will bring our more pleasure...Than an intimate relationship with Jesus. The heavens declare the glory of God but can never contain it. God's Glory is everywhere.

THE GLORY OF MANKIND CAN ONLY BE APPRECIATED IN THE LIGHT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.

It is in that moment...when we recognize the Glory of God... That we find our significance.

It is only in that moment...when you bow in worship because you recognize His glory....you realize His majesty...You find yourself in the presence of Holiness.....Perfection...and Wonder. Only in that moment....do you find your significance in Christ.

There is nothing on earth...nothing ever created...nothing you can create or obtain...that will bring you more pleasure than an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Heavens declare the Glory of God....From the lips of babes come praises for Him...God has placed His glory in the Heavens...He puts on a show every night. And every moment of every day....Satan tries to Shrink our God and steal our significance. God inhabits the praises of His people and where God is glorified, Satan flees. Are you sick and tired of everyone trying to Shrink YOUR GOD? Then stand up as Natalie leads us....and shout praises to the only One who is worthy....