

THIS IS THE ONE TO WHOM I WILL LOOK

PASTOR ROBBIE SYMONS

ISAIAH 66:1-2

1. This past Sunday, we celebrated our 5th anniversary. Spend some time sharing how you have seen God's faithfulness in your time at Harvest Toronto West.

CONVICTION #1: THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

2. Pastor Robbie pointed out that one of our common problems is that we put God in a box. Read Is 66:1-2a. How does this verse show how ludicrous this is? What does this verse say about the magnitude of God?

3. This Sunday, we heard the following quote in A.W. Tozer's 1961 book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*:

The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us. A whole new philosophy of the Christian life has resulted from this one basic error in our religious thinking.

With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit. The words, "Be still, and know that I am God," mean next to nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshipper in this middle period of the twentieth century.

This loss of the concept of majesty has come just when the forces of religion are making dramatic gains and the churches are more prosperous than at any time within the past several hundred years. But the alarming thing is that our gains are mostly external and our losses wholly internal; and since it is the quality of our religion that is affected by internal conditions, it may be that our supposed gains are but losses spread over a wider field.

Do you think Tozer's description of modern Christianity is true today? How so? What are some of the "hundred lesser evils" that result from a "low view of God"?

HEART CHECK: Is your view of God high or low? What is the state of your "sense of majesty" today? Do you want God himself, or just his blessing?

CONVICTION #2: THERE IS ONLY THAT GOD WILL LOOK TO

4. Read Is 66:2b. In this verse, God is about to describe the one who he looks at. If we miss this, we miss everything.

a. **THE HUMBLE**

Pastor Robbie pointed out that humility is such a big deal that it is the second-most emphasized virtue in the New Testament (after love). Andrew Murray describes it this way: "Humility is the mother-virtue, your very first duty before God, the one perpetual safeguard of the soul. Set your heart upon it as the source of all blessing." Do you see humility as "just another virtue" or "the mother-virtue"? According to Jesus' first beatitude in Matt 5:3, why is humility so foundational to faith in Christ?

Pastor Robbie explained that in all of life, we have a choice between the door of pride and the door of humility. Read 1 Pet 5:5-6. According to this verse, what are the consequences of this choice? Why is this such a big deal?

HEART CHECK: Do you see your life decisions through the lens of choosing between pride and humility? Do you see what is at stake?

b. **THE BROKEN**

The term "contrite" is a rare term that literally means "crippled feet". This means we are busted up and desperate for help. To help us understand what this looks like, put yourself in Peter's shoes by reading the account of his betrayal in Luke 22:54-62 (pay attention to verses 61-62) and the account of his restoration in John 21:15-17. Describe the stages of devastation you would experience if you were Peter.

This Sunday, we were taught that Peter had to be devastated before he was asked if he loved Jesus. Pastor Robbie candidly responded to common criticism of "Christianity is a crutch" by saying "No way! It is way worse! It's a wheelchair! In fact, it is resurrection for the dead." In your day-to-day life, what stops you from seeing how broken and crippled you are apart from Jesus Christ? How can meditating on the gospel address this?

c. **THE REVERENT**

In this vein, A.W. Tozer continues in "Knowledge of the Holy":

"What comes into your mind when you think about God?" we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man. Were we able to know exactly what our most influential religious leaders think of God today, we might be able with some precision to foretell where the Church will stand tomorrow.

Without doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God, and the weightiest word in any language is its word for God.

As we celebrate our 5th anniversary and look forward to the future, spend the rest of your small group time praying that we as individuals and a church body will have a high view of God and low view of ourselves. Our future depends on this foundation.