

Lesson 3 - The Blessings of Serving a Jealous God

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Introduction: Our God wants us to know His character so He can bless us.

- A. When God describes Himself we should carefully listen.
 - 1. God made this clear in the giving of the 10 commandments. (Ex. 34:4-7)
 - 2. Moses used this certain character of God in his prayer to Him. (Num 14:17-19)
- B. If God loves us then why not serve Him regardless of the commitment we have to Him? Some have called this “easy-believism.”
 - 1. God actually tells us not to serve Him if we do not recognize His character and the changes that must come in our personal lives! (Josh 24:19-20)
 - 2. When you come to know God it will change how you view everything.
 - 3. The fad movements of “easy believism” are seen as empty when you know God.
- C. We live in a time where the culture has become aggressively hostile to Christian morals. A clear view of God is the rock that will allow us to stand.

I. What does it mean when God proclaims that He is a jealous God?

- A. **Jealous** - ζήλω - (1) as commendably striving for something *desire, show zeal (for), set one's heart on* (1C 12:31); (2) of a strong personal concern for someone *be zealous or jealous (over)* (2C 11.2); (3) of an attitude of misplaced zeal *be zealous for, eagerly seek, try to win over* (GA 4.17); (4) in a bad sense of hostile emotion based on resentment *(be moved with) envy, be filled with jealousy, be jealous of* (AC 17.5) - Freiberg Lexicon
 - 1. Someone has described it as *the zealous love of God.*
 - 2. “The root idea in the Old Testament word jealous is to become intensely red. It seems to refer to the changing color of the face or the rising heat of the emotions which are associated with intense zeal or fervor over something dear to us. In fact, both the Old and New Testament words for jealousy are also translated “zeal.” Being jealous and being zealous are essentially the same thing in the Bible. God is zealous—eager about protecting what is precious to Him.”
- B. Satan can direct men into another kind of jealousy that can destroy the mind and the soul. (Gal 5:20, 2 Cor 12:20)
 - 1. Those who crucified Christ did so because of jealousy (envy). (Mt 27:18)
 - 2. Churches have been divided because of the jealousy (zeal) of men. (Gal 4:17)

II. God's Jealousy shows us how important we are to Him

- A. God is jealous because we are a special treasure to Him. (Ex 19:4-6; 1 Pt 2:4-5)
 - 1. Consider God's relationship to Israel. (Ps 135:4)
 - 2. God's jealousy is an intolerance of rivalry or unfaithfulness. This would be like the jealousy that a spouse would have.
 - 3. We are very important to God! Think about this. (Jn 3:16)
- B. God's jealousy for us is likened to the marriage relationship. (Hosea 2:19-20)

1. We are so important to God that *He has a zealous love for us*.
 2. It is possible for us to love something else more than God. When this happens we have become unfaithful. We must guard our hearts. (2 Cor 11:2)
 3. Consider the importance of guarding our hearts in our marriages. An unfaithful mate is a pain worse than if they had died.
- C. God's jealousy has provided us with a covenant.
1. A covenant with God defines the relationship. What a privilege to have a relationship with God! (Consider the covenant of marriage)
 2. This gave Noah courage before he entered into the ark. (Gen 6:18)
 3. Our covenant was made possible by the blood of Christ. (Mt 26:28-29)
 4. We should be greatly reassured by the fact we have a defined relationship.

III. Assurances that come from God's jealousy

- A. God will *take care* of His children. (Nahum 1:1-3, 7)
1. He will punish the enemies of His people.
 2. He will provide for His people in the midst of adversity. (Rom 8:31-37)
 3. God knows our weaknesses and has made abundant provision for us.
- B. God wants us to be jealous for *His people* and *His covenant*.
1. Consider the stand of Elijah contrasted to the "open minded" cowardice of the people. We should be zealous for God! (1 Kgs 18:21; 19:10, 14)
 2. Phineas killed many who by their actions were openly influencing God's people. We need "pointed" preaching today! (Num 25:7-8; 11-12)
 3. I am shocked to see those who "like" those openly departing from the faith.
 4. Jesus showed us this jealousy (zeal) in His life. (Jn 2:14-17)
- C. We must flee idolatry.
1. An idol occurs when *we make something more important than God*. (Col 3:5)
 2. It is better never to serve God than to begin to serve Him and fall to idolatry. When you lose your heart you have turned from God. (Job 24:19-25)
 3. We cannot regard our relationship with God lightly.
 4. God's love for us is so strong that He is jealous for *our devotion and love*. How would you feel if you had a spouse that you deeply love and have provided and then found out that your spouse was not faithful to you? (Ps 78:58-59)
- D. We must be jealous for God's people and to *who they extend fellowship*. (2 Cor 11:2-4, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:20-22)
1. Fellowship is the acid test for *what we are really putting first*. Too many want the name Christian but have full fellowship with the world. (James 4:4-6)
 2. Too many Christians have joined the world in criticizing "negative preaching."
 3. Let us be moved to be jealous (zealous) for our God and His ways!

Conclusion: Remember that God places an extraordinary value on you and I!