

Is your God too safe?

1. Read from Genesis – Story of Terah and Abraham
2. Borderland – a place of safety.
 - a. The familiar, the wonderless, the explained, explainable, contained, controlled.
 - b. Why does God seem to call us to do what we least want to do? [I'll go anywhere but Africa] why do we hold back? (to reveal our heart)
3. God is not a man
 - a. Aslan
 - i. "Is he a man?" asked Lucy? "Aslan, a man!" Mr. Beaver said sternly. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great emperor beyond the sea. Don't you know who is the king of beasts? Aslan is a lion – the lion, the great lion.
 - ii. Oh, said Susan. "I thought he was a man. Is he –quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."
 - iii. "That you will dearie, and no mistake." Said Mrs. Beaver. "if there is anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they are either braver than most or just silly."
 - iv. "Then he isn't safe?" Said Lucy.
 - v. "Safe?" Said Mr. Beaver. "don't you ihear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? Of course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the king, I tell you."
 - b. What kind of God do you have ?
 - i. Is he the God who gives you a parking place?
 - ii. Is he the God you have to appease to be sure your prayers are answered?
 - iii. Is he the indifferent God of the Moslems who stands afar off and watches and allows all things to just happen and expects us to accept it as "Allah's will?"
 - iv. Is he the God that we fit into our safe box, who we control?
 - v. Is he a "nice" God?
 - vi. Is he a "safe" God?
 - c. God is none of these. He is neither safe or nice. He is Good. He is a consuming fire. (SCRIPTURE)
 - i. What we need is an accurate theology about God.
 1. AW Tozier says we need to "take refuge from God in God." Our God must be the one who we fear and yet we do not need to be afraid of.
 2. The "safe" god is only the patron diety of rainless golf games.
 3. We need to destroy the IDOLS of the false God (like Gideon (Judges 6:30) in order to know the true God.
 4. A safe God is your worst enemy. He is in the pay of your enemy; he breeds cowardice, he plunders your fields, he keeps you stuck, complacent, bored.
 - d. Getting to know the TRUE God
 - i. Peter's call (Luke 5:1-11) (God in my pocket) [alright, a new boat, new vacation, look, a golden nest egg...Hey Jesus, can we do this again tomorrow...I could retire soon if we can...Think about Peter recruiting Jesus...partner (10% of profits); think about Peter looking at Jesus and catching his eye and his thoughts betraying him...and he sees Jesus isn't there to advance Peter's agenda in life. All he says is, "Follow Me". Someone has to leave...either Peter leaves everything or Jesus leaves Peter...and Peter says, "Depart from me" (he recognizes his fallenness, his selfishness, his self serving nature and realizes he is in the presence of at least a great prophet.).

- ii. Jesus comes into our boats and fills our nets with blessings, and what do we say, Depart from me...(don't take all this away, leave me alone so I don't leave this behind, ...but I'll call if I need some more fish for my net.
- iii. Follow Me – (John 21:1-6) (2nd calling). Noone asked where, to do what, for how long..
- iv. Perhaps we like to give God our pitfalls but not our windfalls?
 - 1. How many ppl come to a pastor for help and prayer when they are going through a divorce, a bankruptcy, etc?
 - 2. How many ppl have ever come to you for advice on how to manage an inheritance they received, or the big raise or bonus they got?