

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon

"The Works and Ways of God"

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Speaker

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One of the questions Christians will ask most often most is: "How can I know the will of God?"

- We as Christ followers are called to discern God's will in order to make choices that lead to the abundant, fruitful life He has for us. Jesus said, (Vs) John 10:10 – "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

My Question: "How many of us are actually living that abundant life?"

Thought: Perhaps this means we as a people are not discerning His Will well?

- How do we go about finding the will of God?
- First, we must understand there's no secret formula guaranteed to unlock God's will for us.
- But, there is a way God will reveal His will for you and that's by "Knowing God so intimately, His will for you will unfold, day by day."

You see, there are two primary "Knowings" in our relationship with God...

- Knowing God's works, what He does.
- Knowing God's ways, who He is.

This morning Passage is declaring both of these...Knowing God's Works and What He does!

(Vs) Psalm 138:4 – "All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth..."

- Kings in scripture often represent humanities best efforts!

Kings are as gods below, and they do well when they worship the God above. The way of conversion for kings is the same as for ourselves: faith to them also cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Happy are those who can cause the word of the Lord to penetrate palaces; for the occupants of thrones are usually the last to know the joyful sounds of the gospel.

- This is what makes King David such an important figure within scripture...

(Vs) Psalm 47:6-8 – “Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.”

- He understands from somewhere deep inside him... this is what God does!

(Vs) Psalm 147:3-6 – “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground.”

- It's through this understanding David was able to live a life of such great abundance and joy within the will of the Lord!

“Knowing God's Ways, Who He Is”

(Vs) Psalm 138:5 – “and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.”

- **Now:** Some of us only know God's works, but don't know His ways, and the sad truth is that if we stay there, we'll never really know Him at all...
- Jesus feeds 5000 people and then leaves in the middle of the night...

(Vs) John 6:25-29 – When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to Him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

- “You want bread for the body, but what you need is nourishment for the soul!”
- You want what I provide but not who I am.
- Job while enduring great suffering shows that he understands the ways of God!

(Vs) Job 26: 2,3,14 – “How you have helped him who has no power! How you have saved the arm that has no strength! How you have counseled him who has no wisdom, and plentifully declared sound knowledge!”... “Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?”

Like Job and Unlike the Bread seeking “shore people” ...We must choose to be those who proclaim...

- I don't want provision and protection without Your presence.
- I'm not going to settle for any blessing without the Blessor.
- I don't want the land without the Lord.

This is where Job found his comfort... In the Ways of God!

- And so, He like King David found comfort living within The Will of God!

“God doesn't have favorites, but He does seem to have intimates”

- I believe these people are those that have a relationship with God built both around “Knowing His Works, what He does” and “Knowing His Ways, Who He Is” ...

“It's within these very 'Works and Ways of the Lord' that we find our instructions from God about how-to live-in harmony with Him and One another.”

I want to close today by imploring you to stop and look within yourself...

- When you feel like saying to God, His Scripture or The People God has placed in your life to advise you...
- “You don't need to teach me anymore.” “I know what is right and what is wrong.” “I will do whatever I like.” “I know what I am doing.” “I will decide what is good and bad.”

This is a rejection of Harmony, and so from the Works and Ways of The Lord.

- But our God offers help! He wants to restore through, His Scripture, His Spirit and His People the song of our lives.
- Through love, grace, peace, forgiveness, acceptance, etc.

It is only in this way that you can know the Will of God and live the life of abundance He has for you!

“For great is the glory of the Lord – Great is His character; great is His dignity; great is His honor; and all this will be seen to be so when those of most exalted rank thus worship and adore Him. The most-lofty on earth shall acknowledge that there is one who is more exalted than they are, and their own dignity and splendor shall thus contribute to deepen the impression of the honor and glory of God.” – Barnes