

Every Day with Jesus
Knowing God Better
Genesis 1:26-31

“We focus on what is without doubt the most noble and loftiest of themes: the nature and character of God.”
–Selwyn Hughes

And yet, we find ourselves in this generation more preoccupied with self than with God, more concerned about preserving creation than knowing the Creator, and more anxious about losing freedom in our governance than about living in our freedom in Christ. We would do well to consider the implications of the Bible’s opening words. The Bible begins not with man establishing his place in the creative order, but with God creating and establishing and ordering all that exists.

1. God’s holiness requires intolerance of sin.
2. God’s justice compels action against sin.
3. God’s mercy extends grace toward sinners.

Our intention of reading through the Bible must be to know God Himself better. Packer in *Knowing God* says, “Our concern must be to enlarge our acquaintance, not simply with the doctrine of God’s attributes, but with the living God whose attributes they are.” God is the subject of our reading and our helper in understanding what we have read. He must also be the motivation for it, using it to lead us to Him. Ultimately, we endeavor in this project to read through the Bible in a year in such a way as to “turn each truth we learn *about* God into matter for meditation *before* God, leading to prayer and praise *to* God,” (Packer, *Knowing God*.)

Reflection

How satisfied are you in you the balance between knowing about God and knowing God. Do you have more conversations about Him than with Him? What are some disciplines that you can begin to practice to improve your intimacy with God? What do you think of when you think of holiness? What images come to mind? How does God’s justice differ from our own? How does a reliance on the promises and faithfulness of God help us cultivate mercy and patience towards others rather than judgment and irritation? How do you reconcile what we have been taught with regard to saying “God loves the sinner but hates the sin, “ with the reality of what the Psalmist says in Psalm 5:4-6? How should that tension be reflected in your own prayer life?