

The Character of God

As Christians, we have a high calling to reflect the character of our God. It was God who proclaimed that we must be holy because He is holy (1Peter 1:16), and it is God's word which continually calls Christians to become like Christ. Thus, as we continue our Christian walk understanding the Character of God becomes an essential goal for each person. One cannot imitate that which they do not observe, and we form our study habits through attention and practice. Let us then dive into the mind of God and learn about His character.

The Apostle Paul, while writing to the Christians in Rome, would encourage them to study the ancient texts because "*whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope*" (Romans 15:4). These same writings show us the character of God interwoven from Genesis to Malachi, and it is here we want to begin our study as we look at two often forgotten characteristics of God.

1. God Has Eyes for The Good, Not the Beautiful.

While it can be easy to be caught up with the beauty and the majesty of this world, God from the very beginning has set a standard that is higher than physical attraction.

Read Genesis 1:31 – "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very _____."

God's standards for life are found in what is good.

Question: Why did God create Eve? Read Geneses 2:15-18.

Answer: _____.

God has a particular focus on that which is good; when the Bible first defines anything as appealing or beautiful, it comes on the brink of the greatest mistake in human history.

Read Genesis 3:5-6.

Question: What three reasons does Eve give for wanting to eat of the forbidden tree?

Answer: _____, _____, and _____.

Eve's tragic sin came from forgetting what is good and while being mesmerized by the devils lie of equality with God and enticed by the beauty of the tree. This can often be Satan's snare, using beauty and lies to cause one to forget what is good. God on the other hand is not like this, instead God desiring what is good over what is attractive can be traced throughout the rest of the Old Testament and into the New Testament.

1 Samuel 16:1-7

Question: What is this scene?

Answer: _____.

Question: What did God not use as His standard for picking a king?

Answer: _____.

Samuel's introduction to the family of Jesse clues God's people into what God looks for in a person, and it is not his physical appearance. Now, this does not mean being handsome or beautiful is sinful.

1 Samuel 16:10-13

Question: How is David depicted?

Answer? _____, _____, and _____ (V.13).

Question: What standard does Acts 13:22 note that God used to pick David as King?

Answer: _____
_____.

God recognizes beauty, but only after He sees the inner man.

Isaiah 29:13 & Matthew 15:7-9

Question: What was far from God?

Answer: _____.

Question: Why does this matter?

Answer: _____
_____.

God is continually demonstrating that He looks into our hearts long before He looks at our appearance. This characteristic is one the world has gotten away from, and while we cannot see a

person's heart, the Bible notes that our actions are a representation of our hearts. Therefore, we must learn to look at a person's actions before we look at their appearance.

2. God is Resourceful.

Another characteristic that continues to display itself throughout the dispensation of Scripture is God's ability to use whomever and whatever to achieve His will. We can forget this at times, forgetting even that God can use us to accomplish some great deeds.

Genesis 50:15-21

Question: What is the scene we just read?

Answer: _____
_____.

Question: Why were Joseph's brothers scared?

Answer: _____
_____.

Question: What did Joseph understand about how God works?

Answer: "you meant evil against me; _____
_____,"

Question: What did God accomplish through the enslavement of Joseph?

Answer: _____
_____ (V. 20).

Judges 6:11-15

God's Judges were far from exemplary people. But God was able to pick people who would return His people from bondage no matter their shortcomings, and Gideon is no different.

Question: Why does Gideon deem himself unfit for the job?

Answer: _____ and
_____ (V. 15).

While Gideon may come from the weakest of stocks within the Nation of Israel, God saw a man He could use.

Esther. – Esther 4:13-14

Reading Esther 3:8-9, what is the setting for God to use Esther?

Answer: _____
_____.

Israel was on the brink of elimination, yet God would be able to find someone to deliver His people. – Read Ester 4:13-14

Question: If Esther rejected her opportunity, would God's plan fail? Why?

Answer: _____
_____.

Question: How do Mordecai's words, "*Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this,*" motivate you to action?

Answer: _____

_____.

The Apostles.

We only know the professions of 6 of the Apostles.

Question: What can we learn about God from 4 Fishermen, 1 Tax Collector, and 1 Zealot?

Answer: _____.

In conclusion, God's character is seamlessly woven throughout His inspired word. In some of the most seemingly insignificant places, God's nature is truly on full display. I pray that we can remember to look for the good in people and know that God can use us even when we think we have nothing to offer.

God bless!