

Glimpses of God – Part 3 – The Righteous God that Sanctifies

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Big Idea: God is Righteous and Holy. We are not and cannot be by our own merit. God is also the one who Sanctifies, it's part of who He is. He is Righteous, and He Sanctifies.

Scripture Focus: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 ESV

In Jesus' own words he said, **"And I, when I am lifted up from this earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32 ESV)** God is drawing all of humanity to himself, The thing is, he does not tolerate sin. He is a righteous God. Not only that, but He is a God that Sanctifies, 1 Peter 1:16 references **Leviticus 11:44 where it says, "Be holy for I am holy".**

- As Christians we have an understanding that we are in a process of sanctification, we're in this already, but not yet experience with God. We're forgiven, we're in His hands, but we're still here on earth experiencing all our human condition
- We Christians not only have our own sense of judgement, but we have the indwelling spirit of God. But what about those who don't yet know Him? Jesus is drawing them to himself, and we get to take part of the journey, just like someone may have done so with you
- God has been working from the beginning to prepare the table, so that you and I, and every person who calls upon the name of Jesus could be with Him. He is Righteous, and that He Sanctifies his People

As we open up today's message I wanted to start out with a visual of the Sea of Galilee and with a reading from

Matthew 5:13-20 ESV

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 You are the light of the world. A City on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. 17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does teach them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

- So we're gathered here this Sunday morning, and if you're watching online or away you're engaged with this video with a purpose of encountering God
- Like those people that followed Jesus all the way out to the sea of Galilee as you can see behind me, all people, all tired, different ailments, different circumstances of life, some may have heavy burdens, others' may be shooting the breeze in the morning of life
- We are here because of an understanding that the more we come to God. The more we understand of His purposes, the more we come to surrender our will, our thoughts, emotions, afflictions, to that of Christ and the more we encounter what life truly is about
- *If God is so Holy, how could I a sinner ever be close to him?*
- Did you know there's people that really believe that if they step into a church the building will catch on fire, or a lightning bolt will take them out right then and there
 - o As a kid, I used to think that I couldn't go into church without first asking for forgiveness of sin.
- We could be going through life aimlessly, without an understanding of purpose, without an understanding of God and eternity. But our Righteous God sanctifies

us, He sent Jesus to not abolish but fulfill the law. That is why he is Righteous, and why He Sanctifies

- Will you pray with me? **Pray that God would highlight a family member, a family unit, a coworker** that needs fellowship, That needs a shoulder to lean on, or that needs Jesus in their heart

1. God is Righteous

In the Old Testament we see one of the glimpses of God, one of the names used to describe him as Jehovah Tsidkenu (Pronounced: SID Canoe). Together this word says, "The Lord Is our Righteousness".

- The root word SEDEQ in Hebrew tells us that God is the center and the arbiter of Justice. What is right, what is correct in the sense of weights and balances, regarding governance, victory, deliverance, prosperity. All that is right, all that is good flows from Him. (Reference Strong's Concordance H6663)

We see glimpses of SEDEQ all throughout the Old Testament, the prophet Hosea says,

Hosea 14:9 ESV

Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

Leviticus 19:36 ESV when giving rules to the Hebrew people on how they do commerce:

You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, a just hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

- God did not and does not tolerate that His people would cheat or manipulate even in the marketplace

The psalmist on many occasions calls on the Lord using the word SEDEQ,

Psalm 23:3 ESV

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

But it isn't until we see the book of Jeremiah that we find Jehovah Tsidkenu.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 ESV

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness.

Jeremiah specifically prophecies of the branch of David, specifically with the word SEDEQ, speaking of God's Righteousness being made manifest in King David's family lineage.

- The people listening to this prophetic word were probably not the biggest fans of David's lineage. He had a reputation, so did his sons and their sons
- They were terrible kings, bad rulers, unrighteous, corrupt
 - o Greedy
 - o Self-serving
 - o Their concerns were not with the people but with their own interests
- but Jeremiah says, "His name shall be JEHOVA TSIDKENU"
- He comes out of left field with this, they didn't expect that
- Prophecying the coming of Jesus Christ
- Jehovah God, Tsidkenu the Righteous One. The Righteous God. Jesus Christ the Righteous King

- And he's here to do what?

"Execute justice and righteousness in the land. Judah will be saved; Israel will dwell securely".

The interpretation of this passage of Jeremiah that the Jewish religious system had in Jesus' time interpreted that Jesus was going to come and rule a physical kingdom. But

here we are 2000 years later, experiencing this already but not yet completion of what Jesus did on the cross. In his righteousness, as it says Jesus:

Philippians 2:6-11 ESV

Who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 and being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Before we transition to our next point, I want us to read a passage out of Revelation.

Revelation 15:3-4 calls back to The Song of Moses that we find in Exodus 15:

Revelation 15:3-4 ESV

3 Great and amazing are your deeds O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!
4 Who will not fear, O lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are Holy. (KADESH) All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

2. God is Holy & He Sanctifies His People

The other name of God that I wanted to share with you today from the Old Testament Jehovah M'Kaddesh (Mech-Qa Dash)

This name of God literally means The Lord who Sanctifies. The Lord who Makes Holy. The Lord who sets apart (Reference Strong's Concordance H6942)

Leviticus 20:7-8 ESV Consecrate (KADESH) yourselves, therefore, and be holy (KADOSH), for I am the Lord(JEHOVA) your God(ELOHIM). 8 Keep my statutes and do them, I am the LORD(JEHOVA) who sanctifies(KADESH) you.

In this passage, God is specifically talking about the people of Israel of that time, He was calling upon them to be set apart. To not be like the other nations, and to live Holy lives.

1 Samuel 2:2 ESV “There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none beside you; there is no rock like our God.

1 Peter 1:15-16 ESV But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy”.

Hebrews 12:14 ESV Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Romans 3:23 ESV For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

We don't do the work of salvation. We don't become righteous by our own deeds. Sanctification comes from Christ.

What is Sanctification, anyway?

Sanctification is a process like that of a water filter, removing, separating from that which is evil, and dedicating what is left to God.

- Involves being set apart from the world
- Occurs because you are united with Christ and have a new Life in Him
- This is where the Father sees you blameless by the blood of Jesus

Colossians 1:22 ESV, “He has reconciled you in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you Holy & Blameless and above reproach before Him.

- Is based on the finished work of Christ by the cross and resurrection

The Apostle Paul wrote it well in Romans 12 saying:

Romans 12:1-2 ESV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be

conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Paul is calling for the church, for individuals, to live sacrificially giving their life to God. It's our worship to God
- Paul is saying, we are not our own
- Paul is saying, the mind, the will, the emotions, those things must be brought to Jesus and be transformed
- Paul isn't saying be a robot for Jesus
- Paul isn't saying put on your Sunday smile and be nice to folks
- Paul is calling for a Spirit Filled Life
- Sanctification is to be more like Jesus The Holy Spirit works in you through this

In the Assemblies of God, our practical theology asserts That the indwelling of the Holy Spirit begins when you confess faith in Jesus.

- a) We believe that positionally we are sanctified in Christ (being, God the Father sees us blameless by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross)

1 Corinthians 6:9-12 NLT

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people, NONE of these will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 SOME of you were once like that. **But you were CLEANSED;** you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 12 You say, "I am allowed to do anything" – but not everything and even though "I am allowed to do anything", I must not become a slave to anything.

- I don't know what your sin issue may be. But I know we aren't perfect
- All sin feels yucky, it's supposed to feel yucky

- That list isn't all inclusive, but also sin is sin, it weighs the same, and whichever was or is your burden, Jesus carried it for you
- when you received Jesus in your heart, you were cleansed, set free

A spirit filled life is one where we surrender these things at the foot of the cross, not carry them as a ball and chain

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ESV

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding, the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- But at the same time, we are works in progress, progressively growing and becoming more like Christ
- This is a process that takes time, it doesn't mean we don't sin
- It doesn't mean we're better than a new believer
- It means we live a life set apart for God
- It means when we make mistakes, we remember who God is
- We remember what HE did on the cross, confess our sin, grow, and move forward
- Jesus, Jehovah M'Kaddesh, The one who sanctifies you!
- What does this mean for my life?
- Does it mean Just Keep Swimming? (Finding Dory), and everything is going to be OK? Or Just Keep Swimming, moving forward into God's purposes for you for this time and place.
- We must be willing to put God's will into practice, be willing to do what God is calling you to do.
- He is a Righteous God, one day we will enter His Holy Place, this is real, it could be soon, it could be in 100 years,
- We can't sit idly and not encounter His purposes for today when there are thousands who don't yet know him in our own community.

- There are friends, family who through the last few years have simply gotten out of the habit of church and encountering God in community.

He is Holy, He Sanctifies, and He is drawing all to Him so they may be set free. Will you take part of what He is doing in this place?

3. God is Righteous, God is Holy

Holiness is a tough thing in this day and age. If I bring up the word Holiness, your religious trauma may come bubbling up. Your mind may go in multiple directions what is holiness in the last 50 years of church?

- a) Dress a certain way
- b) Talk a certain way
- c) Self-absorbed
- d) Condescending
- e) Judgmental
- f) Goodie-two shoes
- g) Legalistic

- The process of Sanctification isn't cut and dry
- You're gonna get knocked down, you have to get back up
- The Spirit of God is with you

The Apostle Paul himself said in

Romans 7:5 ESV

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

So with this I want to encourage you to never give up, and never give in. God is righteous, and He is right here with you equipping you, transforming you, renewing you.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 ESV

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

References:

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h6918/kjv/wlc/0-1/>

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h6664/kjv/wlc/0-1/>

<https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#9>

Small Group Questions

Q: What Does Jesus' Righteousness mean to you?

Q: How would you explain the concept of Jehovah Tsidkenu, Our God is Righteous to someone who is new to faith in Jesus? Why is God's righteousness important in our faith?

Q: In the message we touched on the sanctification process, and shared the example of a water filter separating what is evil and dedicating what is left to God. In what ways have you experienced or seen sanctification in your life?

Q: Knowing that our righteousness doesn't come from our own deeds, but from Christ, how do you balance the idea of a righteous life and avoid legalism?

Q: We discussed living a Spirit Filled Life, surrendering our burdens at the foot of the cross. What are the things pressing in your heart that you need to surrender to God?

Q: Can you see God's "handprint" in how He is sanctifying you through your life in the day to day? What specific actions or changes could you make to align more with His purposes?

Q: How do you actively participate in sharing the message of God's righteousness and Sanctification with those who don't yet know Him?

Q: How did this sermon impact your understanding of God and His active participation in Sanctification for your daily life? What are some key takeaways from the message?