

Sermon Series: Let's Talk To God

1/19/25 "How to Find What Does Work," Isaiah 55:8-9, MEV

INTRODUCTION Ever thought you knew how to do something, only to have it go wrong? Then check directions & oops!

Context: God invites His people to return to Him; He will show mercy & pardon those who forsake their way & thoughts. To really repent—walk with God—we must know what is of God.

MAIN IDEA: We want to walk God. How do we do that? Here are three things to do.

I. First, we must see God as He is.

A. we're made in His image (likeness, **Gen. 1:26**)

Image: having moral likeness & ability to relate to Him

B. but we're corrupted (**Romans 3:10, 3:23**)

C. we tend to make Him in our image

Numbers 23:19, MEV: God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. [*Balaam & Balak*]

1. assuming He thinks & acts as we do

2. judging Him (what He does & doesn't do)

Eze 18:29, NLT: And yet the people of Israel keep saying, 'The Lord isn't doing what's right!'

3. judging others as we think He does

D. we learn who He is by knowing His Word

Hebrews 1:3, CEV: God's Son has all the brightness of God's own glory and is like him in every way.

2Timothy 3:16, NLT: All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

ILLUSTRATION: woman caught in adultery (John 8)

II. Second, we must seek His thoughts.

Thoughts: purpose, intention (*Word Study Dictionary OT*)

A. being foreign to us

Romans 11:33 NLT: Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

B. our thoughts are often based on our feelings

Jeremiah 17:9, MEV: The heart is more deceitful than all things and desperately wicked; who can understand it?

Heart: the inner person, the seat of thought and emotion

C. His thoughts are rooted in His character, holiness

Psalms 25:10, NLT: The LORD leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.

ILLUSTRATION: Daniel 4:37, NLT: "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud." [*humility*]

III. Finally, we must seek His ways.

Ways: conduct, way of life (*K/M*)

A. ours being very different from His

Eph. 4:22, NLT: throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.

B. His ways set a standard for us to rise up to

Hosea 14:9, MEV: For the ways of the Lord are right, and the just will walk in them; but the transgressors stumble in them.

C. He gives us His Holy Spirit to help us

Eph. 4:23, NLT: Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

ILLUSTRATION: Jonah

CONCLUSION: At WG, I was harsh, judgmental; thought walking with God. But as I learned more about the Spirit, studied, walked with Him, I've learned... to see Him, my thoughts are NOT His, His ways are different from "church" I thought I knew long time ago

ALTAR: Been looking at God & His works from your perspective? Need to be in word, following Jesus, seeking Spirit's leading more?