



Sermon Notes

Term – Spring 2019

Series – Wholeness

Gathering & Date – 5 – 24/02/19

Title – The Unfamiliarity of God

Preacher – Andrew Stansbury

Reading – Luke 17. 5-10

Main message of this talk in one sentence – If our desire is to see more of God in our lives, we shouldn't expect this to be more of the same – what if we were to go after the more of God we've not seen and that we don't know?

Main points –

1. When the disciples cry out for more faith, Jesus tells them that if they had a little faith they would see something unimaginable. A tree being uprooted and thrown into the sea. What?! It's intentionally unfamiliar and new, because asking God for more faith means we are asking Him for the unfamiliar, not just more of the familiar.
2. Every response God brings to our cry for the more will have love at its heart, because He is love. Everything He does, says, thinks and wants comes from love.
3. When Jesus makes a parallel to His disciples being like servants, we know He isn't saying God sees us as servants, scripture makes it clear that we are adopted family with full access to Him the father, but He is making the point that we have given over the leadership of our lives to God and to keep remembering that following His voice is what we signed up for and where the life is. We don't thrive through making our own calls about what is best for us – we don't position ourselves to experience the more and experience more of God in His love through dictating the direction.

For further thought and prayer –

Have you really given God full say over your life?

Have you committed your decisions and choices to Him?

Do you actually want more of God, to experience Him and to hear His voice? If not, why?

Have you told Him why? Don't let guilt or shame shut you down, know that God is inviting honesty above all else. If you find yourself choosing not to engage with God over these kinds of questions, why not?

Do you think it could be because you've closed your doors to Him through previous experience or through any fear?