

The Wonder of a Vulnerable God

Introduction:

- A. It is very appropriate that we have gathered this morning to worship God.
- B. Throughout the Bible he is described in a variety of different ways.

I. Old Testament designations and descriptions of God

- A. _____ — expresses power, greatness, vastness, height (*Gen 17:1; 35:11; Neh 1:5*).
- B. _____ — *He who is; he who is truly present (Exo 3:14-15; 20:2)*.
- C. Other variations:
 - 1. The _____ God (*Gen 21:33*) — the God of eternity.
 - 2. God Most _____ (*Gen 14:18*) — the supreme Being.
 - 3. God of _____ (*2 Sam 6:1-3*) — the One above all created beings.
 - 4. The _____ (*Deut 32:4, 15, 18, 30, 31*) — faithful and sure.
 - 5. A _____ (*2 Sam 22:31*) — the source of deliverance and protection.
 - 6. A God of _____ (*Gen 16:13*) — the One who is aware of all.
 - 7. God of _____ and Lord of _____ (*Deut 10:17*) — Sovereign over all.
- D. He has manifested himself in powerful, sometimes frightening ways (*Isa 6:1-5; Ezek 1*).
- E. This God is willing to speak to human beings (*Exo 33:17-23*).

II. The New Testament revealing of Immanuel, "God with us"

- A. An important prophecy concerning the Messiah (*Isa 9:6*).
- B. The birth of Jesus (*Luke 2*).
- C. The assurance that Jesus not only lived *for* God, but *as* God (*John 1*).
- D. The firsthand witness of the apostles (*Matt 8:23-27*).
- E. A glimpse of the resurrected Christ (*John 20:19-27*).

III. The implications for you and me

- A. Wonder this morning at the very idea of a God who made himself vulnerable (*Phil 2:6-8*)!
 - 1. And why did he do it? (*1 John 4:9; 3:16*).
 - 2. A prayer for this week (*Eph 3:14-21*).
- B. This God who made himself vulnerable is asking you to make yourself vulnerable as well (*Hos 6:1,3; Matt 5:3-4; 2 Cor 7:10*).

Do You Trust God?

Introduction:

- A. Parents sometimes have to ask their children "Do you trust me?" during difficult situations.
- B. At the core of the Bible is the message that we can trust God because:
 - 1. He cannot _____ (*Heb 6:18; Deut 7:9*).
 - 2. He is able to do whatever we _____ and whatever he has _____ (*Eph 3:20-21*).
 - 3. He _____ us and has our best _____ at heart (*Matt 7:9-11; Rom 5:8-10*).
 - 4. He has demonstrated his _____ time and again (*Heb 11*).

Practically speaking, what does it mean to trust God?

F - I will _____ wherever he leads (*Heb 11:8*).

A - I will _____ whatever he says (*Heb 11:7*).

I - I will _____ the momentary pleasures of sin (*Heb 11:24-26*).

T - I will _____ his promises (*Heb 11:11*).

H - I will _____ on to his promises, planning for them (*Heb 11:22*).

F - I will _____ him, not men (*Heb 11:23, 27*).

U - I will _____ trials and testing in a way that honors him (*Heb 11:17*).

L - I will _____ my "home country" behind (*Heb 11:13-16*).