

MOBILISING KINGDOM LIVING

FAITH & RISK • PERSEVERANCE • DAILY



“Proximity Produces Purity”





Movie ? (1986)

What happened to...?

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Lucifer | (Ezekiel 28 & Isaiah 14) |
| 2. Judas Iscariot | (Luke 22:1-6) |
| 3. Religious leaders | (Mark 11:27-12:12) |
| 4. Simeon | (Acts 8: 9-25) |

“Nearness by Likeness”

Through creation, we are near to God because we are all made in his image (Gen 1:26-28).

What does Image or Likeness of God Mean?

While an image is a physical representation of a person or thing, the human body does not mechanically image God as if God had a body. Rather, the whole human being, including the body, images God's attributes through ethical living in concrete settings.

1. Superior **intellectual** structure.
2. **Function** of ruling and managing nature.
3. **Relationships**; Just as the Creator is a being in a relationship, so are his creatures.

Problem with... “Nearness by Likeness”

Fall of man...distance created (Genesis 3:6-10).

⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

Isaiah 59:1-4 NIV Sin created / creates distance

“...But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear...”

‘Looking like Him falls short of Looking at Him’

“Nearness by Approach”

Hebrews 4:16 NIV

Let us then **approach** God’s throne of grace **with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 10:19-22 NIV

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since **we have confidence** to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² **let us draw near** to God with **a sincere heart** and with the **full assurance** that **faith** brings, having our **hearts sprinkled** to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

“What is near Him by likeness is never, by that fact alone, going to be any nearer, but nearness of approach is, by definition, increasing nearness. And whereas the likeness is given to us—and can be received with or without thanks, can be used or abused—the approach, however initiated and supported by Grace, is something we must do.”

C.S Lewis

Counterfeit Approach?

Isaiah 29:13 NIV

¹³ The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.

Mere ceremonial righteousness was and is not enough. We would not experience nearness to God until we understand true religion. *True religion was / is to possess and to practice the character of God, to live out the character of God in our conduct*, rather than to repetitiously carry out rituals or make meaningless professions:

Moses' Heart... Desire for Proximity!

Exodus 33:12-17 NIV

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favour with me.' ¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you..." ¹⁴ The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you, and I know you by name."

"God's Pleasure = God's Presence"

Paradoxical Statements?

1. Without Purity, we can not approach God
2. Without God, we can not be pure

Mathew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Psalms 24:3-6

“Q: who is worthy to stand in God's holy place?

Ans: only one with clean hands, pure heart, and a truthful spirit.”

Jeremiah 17:9 Identifies a problem...

“The heart is more deceitful, and sick.”

“Our Lord Jesus Christ could ascend into the hill of the Lord because his hands were clean and his heart was pure, and if we by faith in him are conformed to his image we shall enter too.”

CH Spurgeon

How Should We Approach God?

1. Confidently
2. Sincerely
3. Fully assured/Faith
4. A clear conscience
5. Washed bodies

John 14:6 NIV

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Where Can We Meet God?

Jeremiah 23:24-27 NIV

²³ “Am I only a God nearby, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? **Do not I fill heaven and earth?**” declares the LORD.

Deuteronomy 4:7 NIV

⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us **whenever we pray to him?**

Matthew 1:23 NIV

²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (**which means “God with us”**).

WE CAN MEET GOD ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE!

What happened to...?

1. Lucifer

Self generated pride

2. Judas

Self centeredness

3. Religious leaders

Self righteousness

4. Simeon

Self seeking

‘Self living’ cannot allow Proximity and without proximity, purity cannot be sustained.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NIV

Prayer of Assurance

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.”

“Proximity Produces Purity”

