



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 29.01.2023

“The Approachable God”

Preacher

Pastor Nathan Bean

Scripture

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

Thought

In Matthew, we catch a rare glimpse of Jesus' own heart as described in His own words. It's one of the only moments whereby Jesus makes a direct “I am” statement relating to His own character - and He chooses to describe Himself as “Gentle and Humble”. Some translations use the word “Lowly”, as the original Greek wording literally refers to something that is not far off the ground. It's the opposite of lofty, distant or unapproachable. This Jesus, who created the universe and all that is within it, describes His very nature as gentle and approachable.

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” - A.W. Tozer, (The Knowledge of the Holy)



Discussion Points

1. What comes into my mind when I think about God? Does this image line up with the concept of Him being gentle and approachable?
2. How do I think I have formed my understanding of who God is? What inputs build that perception?
3. If I truly saw God as gentle and approachable, would that change the nature of my relationship with God? Would that change how I view or think about others that do not yet know Him?

Personal application + Prayer

Jesus,

Thank you for being gentle and approachable. Grant me the wisdom to know when my perspective of you has been influenced by my upbringing, tradition and culture, and help me this week to understand the true nature of your character. May my thoughts of you align with your Word, and continue to do a deep work in me as I endeavour to know you more.

Amen