

Mercy of God

By Francis Chan

I loved watching the just the reverence and the worship today. You know, we have this misconception and in America today with worshipping God, we kind of feel like God's just happy that we worship. He's just excited that we will give him anything. Like as long as we show up to church, as long as we move our mouths, as long as we actually sing the words. He's pleased with that. But as I read scripture, I realize that that's not true. You see, God says that I will only accept your best. God has never allowed half hearted worship. He's always rejected it. And yet I see so many people with this attitude that, well, at least I showed up for church. He must be happy. You must be thrilled that I came to church today. He must be thrilled that I sang to him.

I prayed to him today. And when I study in the Book of Malachi, you read about these priests who were offering to God. They're giving him sacrifices and everything else. But the interesting thing, and Malachi one is a God said to the priest, I don't want your sacrifices. If that's the way you're going to sacrifice to me, then I don't want it at all. And for some reason, I don't know. But because he created us or whatever else, he believes that he deserves our best and he won't accept anything less than that.

In fact, there's some pretty intense verses that he he says to the priest and Malachi one and verse eight, because they were bringing these sacrifices to God, but they weren't bringing him their very best. They're supposed to bring these unblemished animals. And that's not what they were doing. They're giving God their leftovers. And so he says to them and Malachi, chapter one, verse eight, he says, When you present the blind, your sacrifice, is it not evil?

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And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? What he receive? You kindly, says the Lord of hosts. He says to the priest, to the priest, which is to bring their best now. But what he says here is that they were bringing the blind and they were bringing the lamb and the sick. They're giving God what was left over. They had these perfect animals in their flocks, all these perfect sheep, and they should have brought one of those.

But they're looking around and and they noticed one that keeps running into trees and they go, you know, let's bring that one. Let's bring the blind sheep and we'll take him and offer them to God. Or that one's only got three legs, you know, let's take him. And they would bring these sacrifices to God. And, you know, at least I brought something. And when you bring the lamb, is it not evil? Then say that's not good enough for me. He goes, that's evil. When you give me anything less than your best, that is evil.

And then he says in verse nine, he says, now, well, you're not in God's favor that he may be gracious to us with such an offering on your part, will he receive any of you kindly, says the Lord of Hosts. Oh, that there were one among you who would shut the gates that you might not use silly Kindle Fire on my altar. I am not pleased with you, says a lot of post. Nor will I accept an offering from you. He says to these people - I wish there was someone to just close the doors to that temple. I would rather you not sacrifice at all than sacrifice half heartedly. I'd rather have nothing because that was insulting to him. Because you won't even give that to a person. You're giving it to me as God he knows I'd rather be just closed down the place and that those verses ringing my head every time I worship thinking, OK, God would rather me just close the doors and not worship at all from not truly going to worship him with my best.

And then he says in the next verse, celebrities inches from the rising of the sun, even to its setting. My name will be great among the nations and in every place, incense is going to be offered to my name and a grain offering that is pure for my name will be great among the nations. God says, you know what? If you're not going to worship me the right way, there'll be people all around the world who will worship me. It's interesting to me that God's not begging going. You know what? Come on, just give me anything, you know, just a little bit. Just sing one song for me. Come on. You know, just just mouth it. Just just pray. I don't care if it's Cowger. I don't care whatever. Just give me something. He does know if you don't worship me properly. Doesn't matter. There are people all around the world who will worship me with all their hearts because they know that I am a great God.

And it gets really intense in chapter two. I mean, I can even believe some of the words you're in chapter two. Verse two. He says, if you do not listen and if you do not take it to heart, to give honor to my name, says the Lord of Hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I curse them already because you're not taking it to heart. Behold, I'm going to rebuke your offspring and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your face and you will be taken away from it. Taken away with it, he says. These presuppose if you don't listen to me, if you don't change his attitude in this way in which you worship, he goes, not only will I curse you, but I'll take the refuge from your feast.

The dung. From your. That little bull that you you walked up to the altar, you left something behind. He goes, I'm going to take that and I will spread it on your faces. I'll take all the leftovers from the feast that that was the dung. That was the intestines. A lot of the the inner parts of the animal that they would take away from the altar afterwards to cleanse it. He says, not only will I smell of that on your faces, but then I'll take you out to burn it outside the city with all the rest of the refuge. Let's bring in tents. I mean, God's telling us if you don't worship me, right?

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He says to these priests, not only do I wish you would close the doors, not only will I curse you, but, man, I'll take the refuge from your own face and just shove it in your face and take you out with it. Does that sound like a God that says, now I'm just happy that you worship me at all because God is a great, great God. And I share the series on who God is because I wanted so badly to understand that we can't be casual about God because he doesn't permit us to be casual about him.

He says, my name will be great among the nations, whether you choose to exalted as great and mighty or not. And this morning, I. I want to talk about God's greatness. I want to talk about his power. You know, we all say, yeah, I believe that that God is all powerful. But what does that mean? God says in Jeremiah thirty to twenty seven, he says, Behold, I am the Lord. The God of all flesh. Is anything too difficult for me, is anything too difficult for me? Is there anything that I cannot do?

A couple of months ago, I was I was out golfing with a friend and a couple of a couple of older men just joined us and said, hey, we want to play with you guys. They go, don't worry, we won't keep you up and or slow you down. And so we're playing. And I played with some good golfers. I stink. But there's these these guys were incredible. My first hole, you know, they both part of the hole, but but just flawless golf. Next next next hole that one of the guys, you know, hits it into the sand. And I think, yes, he made a mistake. This is great. He chipped it in from the sand for a birdie. I'm going. No way. And then, you know, and then by the third hole again, I mean, they're just flawless, just doing nothing wrong. And so finally, I went up to one of the guys.

I go, what's going on here? Are you going to do this all day? And he goes, pretty much. And he explained to me, he goes, OK, let me tell you, I played five years as a professional. I toured for five years with the big boys. I'm thinking, wow, OK, that's impressive. You know, I'm playing with a professional golfer. And so I thought, you

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know what, I know I'm not going to beat this guy. He was already ahead by like ten strokes after three holes. So I thought, you know what? But all that really matters is how far you hit it, right? I mean, that's golf. It's not about your score. I mean, your your manhood is about how far you hit the ball.

So I just thought, you know, I'm not going to beat him. I just want to outdrive so I can say I drove a pro, you know, and so the next hole man, I just did everything I could, you know, just concentrating, just swung as hard as I could. And it just went straight as an arrow and it was fly. And I'm thinking, yeah, it just went on and on and on. It was one of my best friends in my life, but it went on forever. And I thought, man, that's great. And the pro went up and he swung and I'm watching the ball think I don't think it's going to pass mine. I don't think it's going to pass it did it I outdrew a professional and it felt so good to just say, man, I drove him and he's a pro and I did this whole after whole. I probably outdrew him on most of the holes because I was so confident. I drove a professional golfer here.

He was seventy three, but he was still a pro, though, as at one point in his life. Now around partway through the game, I start thinking, you know, he's an older man and you know how you get convicted. Like, I got to say something about God to this guy. So and you know how you don't know quite how to start a conversation about God, and yet you want to turn it that way and you feel convicted by the Holy Spirit. Tell him about Jesus. Tell him about Jesus. So after it was about the 12th hole or so, I finally just went up to him. I said, hey, do you believe in God? You know, it's a good intro question.

And he he got pretty angry, he says, because, no, I don't believe in God and you shouldn't talk about that. You don't just go up to people and ask them if they believe in God. That's something that you talk to your family about your girlfriend or whatever. But you don't just go to a stranger and ask him who believes in God. I said, all right. And but I didn't leave it alone. You know, I had to go back to him. I go, well, why don't you believe in God? And, you know,

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he's looking at me like, did you not hear what I just said? You know, I go, Why don't you believe in God? I said, What do you believe that all of this just came from nowhere?

And he looked. Amigos know no goes, I think you know that trees drop seeds and they plant grass and I don't know. I don't mean that. I mean just the whole world. You just think it came from nowhere. I mean, look around you. You really just look around the world. You just think all this came from nothing. He goes, no, I believe it all came from the sun. And that's why the core of the earth is so hot. And everything else I go. All right, fine. But where are the sun come from? Where did all this water and everything, you see where it all come from?

And he didn't really he kind of just said, you know, I think dirt was always there. And I said, wow. So onto the dirty kernel, you know? I mean, what, you just believe dirt was just always there and, you know, just trying to understand, trying to be compassionate, everything else. But I also want to get him to think through where this all come from. And then, you know, I could tell he's getting frustrated, kept driving away from me. And that was my clue. And and I could tell this, this wasn't going anywhere. So finally and last fall, I put my arm on his shoulder. I go, listen, I can tell I totally made you mad. I ruined your game, which I was happy about.

But I, I kind of, you know, just frustrated you. I go, I did not mean to do that. I said I just you got to understand, I've been studying the Bible for years now and there's something about this book to me that I can't refute it. The more I study it, the more I realize this thing's got to be true. And and if it's true about what it says about God and his son, Jesus Christ, then that's what we need for salvation. And there is eternal life. And I go, man, I just know this to be true. And that's why I shared with you. I didn't mean to frustrate you or anything else. It's just I want people to understand this truth.

And he is why I can't believe in the Bible. I said, why not? He said, there's so many contradictions. And I said, well, name a contradiction. Let me know, because I've been studying this for a while. I haven't found any yet. And the example he brought up was Noah's Ark. I said, what's the contradiction there? He says, Are you telling me that Noah collected two of every animal? I said, Yeah. He goes, Have you ever thought about that?

Do you mean to tell me that Noah collected two little ants and he got to ants to walk onto the ark and then he got to termites to follow them? And, you know, and he says and he got all these insects on the ark, he goes, because if you believe in Noah's Ark, that's what you believe, that he got two of two little ants to crawl onto that ark. I don't know how you you know what you say when people ask questions like that, because some of the stories in the Bible are pretty bizarre. You know, what do you say I know about you, but for me, I always go back to, you know, if you believe in a God who could create something from nothing. Are you telling me then that that if God could create a little, he could create a little ant, but he couldn't make that walk onto a boat? You know, I mean, he can he can make something from nothing, but that's where his power stops, you know?

I mean, it's easy to make stuff, but to make a walk onto a boat, that would be hard, you know, and there's a lot of stories in the Bible where we we read them. And, yes, they sound bizarre. They sound, man, that's impossible. Yes. For us, it is absolutely impossible. Could I make two aunts walk onto a boat in two termite's and in two lizards? Well, absolutely not. But you know what? I can't create anything either. And as advances we get as a society, as brilliant as we get, we have no idea how to create the power of creation. And so, yes, I would say to him, yeah, you know what? I could never do that, but I couldn't create anything either. Watch. See, there's something you thought I might pull it off. There's there's just no way.

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And so understand, when we talk about God, like I said yesterday, we'll talk about someone who is wholly different from us and a lot of that we can see in the power of creation. I mean, have you ever stopped just to think about creation? You know, it's the first verse you read in the beginning. God created the heavens in the earth. But we we don't take the time to think about creation enough about what it means to create something.

And maybe some of you in this room still struggle with that. Maybe some of you in this room still struggle with the whole concept of, well, are we sure that God really created this world? I know a lot of Christians who struggle in that area still thinking, I'm not sure that God created it all. But take a moment and think think about the earth that you're sitting on right now. Ever since I was a little kid and you'd study all the facts about the Earth, I was always fascinated by it. Do you realize right now the Earth that you and I are on is spinning at a thousand miles an hour right now? You and I, we're spinning at a thousand miles an hour. You just stop and think about that. Weird you at all. We're moving a thousand miles. Not only that, but the Earth is orbiting around the sun at sixty seven thousand miles an hour.

So right now we're sitting on an earth that's spinning at a thousand miles an hour and we're flying around the sun at sixty seven thousand miles an hour. Not only that, but the sun carries us into orbit all throughout space. And right now, this little earth of ours is flying through space at one point three million miles an hour. You ever just stop and try to picture that in your head? I'm standing on an earth that's spinning at a thousand miles an hour, flying around the sun at sixty seven thousand miles an hour, and then flying through space at one point three million miles an hour. And I don't feel a thing. I don't notice a single thing. Then I'll go to Disneyland, ride the teacups and get motion sickness. You know, you ever just stop and think about all that and just how amazing this whole earth is put together. I mean, when you just even picture the Earth and your mind and what it's doing and how we can sit here and you think all of that just came from nothing.

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All of that just appeared. I guess stuff like that appears every day. Think about it, man. I'll look at my my clothes, my watch, and I'll show you what someone must have made that I don't think it just appeared out of nowhere. Look at the building and I'll go. You know what? I think someone built this thing. They had plans and they made it. How in the world then can we look at our own human bodies? You know, the way we laugh, the way we cry, the way we get angry, all these feelings, all these emotions, just our senses and everything else and say, you know what, I think it just appeared from nowhere because God is the God of creation.

And what an incredible mind to create all of that just from nothing to cause something to appear. We're talking about someone on a completely different level from us. You know, and John, one one it says in the beginning was the word the word was with God. The word was God, just like in Genesis one. Oneness is in the beginning. God, I don't want to take just a few seconds right now to think about that phrase in the beginning. God, do you realize that there was a time it's a little heavy for nine thirty in the morning. But think about this. Do you realize there was a time when there was nothing at all just God to try to think about this?

There was a time when there was nothing but God, where there were no heavens, there was no earth, just God, there were no angels to worship him and tell him he was God. There were no people to worship him as God. It was just God. And he was still perfectly God, even though no one was telling him he's got he was God perfectly self-sufficient. All there was was God and all things were created by him. But there was that time when it was just God for all of eternity passed. And you and I, we didn't even exist. This whole earth, we we we sit our doesn't even exist. There's just God. Think about that for a second.

And you and I people, the earth, we were just the thought in his mind, we only existed as a thought in the mind of God. What if God never thought that thought? You first think about that. What if God never thought to create me, I

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wouldn't even exist? I mean, the gap that exists between a creator and a created being is amazing. When I stop and think there was a time when there was just God. And if you even think to create this earth, it didn't think to create me, I wouldn't exist. That's a God that we speak about so casually, for God to create us from nothing. That's why in Romans nine, God's will, the little thing created say to its creator, Why did you make me this way with the thing mold that he's talking about a pattered a piece of clay. He says, what would the thing mold it say to its molder, Why did you make me like this? To question God as a created being to question our creator? And he's explained the foolishness of it. I mean, if I if I took some Plato, OK, and I decide, you know what, I'm going to I'm going to make a little guy, you know, and so I create a little Plato man. And and let's let's just imagine right now I make this Plato man, OK?

And and after creating him, he looks at me and says, Why did you make me like this? I didn't want to be yellow. I mean, as a created being to look at my creator and ask me why was my brother doing the container, why? And to ask all these questions of how dare you make me like this? What blows me away is I've met a lot of people even who call themselves Christians, that that question God say, God, why did you make me like this? Why how come I have these flaws? How come you why did you do this? Why did you do that in my life? And yet you realize we were talking to you.

You realize what it means to be a created being, talking to an almighty God, a creator, the one who made you from nothing. You didn't even exist until he thought you into existence and he spoke you into existence. What would you do? What would you do as a creator if you're created being sat there and questioned you and demanded answers of you like Plato, man, you know, what are you thinking? I mean, the thought of of just what it means. Are you seeing a little bit of a gap between a created being, you and I, and there is a God up in heaven sitting on his throne who says I spoke all of you into existence? And he says, is there anything that's too difficult for me?

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And with the things created, would you and I dare shake our fists at God and say, God, why would you allow this? Why would you do this? Why did you make me the way you made me? Says and Colossians one versus 16 and 17. It says four by him. All things were created both in the heavens and on the earth, visible and indivisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things have been created by him and for him. And he's before all things and in him all things hold together. Now, I want to focus on that one phrase. Where is all things have been created by him and for him now?

Most of us, I think most of us in this room would say, you know what, I do believe that he created all things, that all things were created by him. But the word I want you to focus on in that verse is the word for said all things were created by him and for him. What does that word for mean to you? That all things were created for him? That you and I were created for him. For me to understand that God didn't just make me and say, OK, I made you for yourself, you live your own life, you do whatever you want to do and just enjoy the life I gave, you know? But for him to say I created you for me, I made you for me, what does that mean to you? I often ask the question, do you believe that you were created for God or do you believe that God was created for you?

Because while most of us would say, yeah, I believe I was created for God, most of us act like God was created for us. God, I need you to do this for me. Here's a list of things that you got to get done for me. And when we we pray and we say, God, I wanted this, this and this and I've been asking for weeks and you still haven't done it, we get frustrated with him like, God damn, what are you there for? Man, I asked you for several things. And it's been three weeks now and you still haven't done it for me. We call God our lord, and yet we treat them as our slaves so often because we forget that, you know what, I was created for him in my attitude and prayer needs to be more of God.

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Here I am. You made me for you. So what do you want me to do for you today? Because I was created by him, for him and for his purposes to realize, God, you gave me life. You made me. So what do you want to do with me today? That needs to be more of our attitude and prayer to humbly come before our creator and say, God, here I am again. How do how can I honor you today? Because you made me for yourself. You said you and I we have our desires, but we've got to understand that God has a will also God, that holy God, he has desires, just like you and I have desires. God has desires. Also, the difference the difference between God's desires and my desires is that whatever God desires, he gets God gets whatever he wishes.

That's a difference between his power and my power. I mean, if I wish to save ten thousand dollars next year, could God stop me? Probably, right? Yes, good. Now, if God wanted it to rain tomorrow, could I stop him? No, I mean, that's the difference between his will and my will. If he wants something to happen, he can make it happen. If I want something to happen, it still may not work because I want to I want to say something that is probably the most profound thing I'll say this morning. And that's this. God does whatever he wants. God does whatever he wants. When you understand the depth of that statement, it'll change your attitude completely that God does whatever he wants, he says. And Daniel for verse thirty five, he says all the peoples of the Earth are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him, What have you done, Daniel? For thirty five years? Because you know what all the people are regard is nothing. He just does whatever he pleases. You know, I've been a I've been asked a lot of questions in the past that I couldn't answer. You know, you ever do that you're sharing with someone and then they'll ask questions. I don't know the answer to that one. Like people have asked me, you know, why?

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Why does God allow Satan to roam about the earth? Still, I don't know. Or why, if God is perfect, why did he create a creation that's imperfect? Why do I have laws if God is perfect? I don't know. Why did God create all these other planets and stars if there is no life on them? I don't know why. How come? How come he doesn't just sin saying to hell right now and destroy all the evil. And there's all these questions that people ask me, well, how come God did things this way, this way, this? And I'd have no answer at all. All my life I've been saying, I don't know that one. I don't know that one. And in this years, I began to study who God is. I finally found the answer to all these things. Do you know why God does those things? Because he wants to. That's all there is to it because he wants to.

Is that enough of an answer for you? Why does God allow that? Because he wants to. And you've got to ask yourself this morning, is that enough of an answer for you? Is God allowed to do whatever he wants or does it have to be OK with you first? Is God allowed to do whatever he wants or does he have to explain it to you first? Does it have to make sense in your mind in order for God to do it? That's a really, really important question that you've got to ask yourself. Is God allowed to do what he wants or does he have to give me a reason for everything?

He says, and in Matthew 20, verse 15, he says, Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own here that he says, is it not lawful? Is it not fair for me to do whatever I wish with what is my own real simple question? Be like me asking you, you know, this this Plato's mine. I bought it yesterday. Seriously, this is my Plato now. Isn't it fair for me to do whatever I wish with with it? I mean, look, you guys, look, I'm tearing apart this piece of Plato. Does anyone have a problem with that? Is my Plato.

All right, look, I'm looking to Plato. I got my terms on it. You got a problem with that? It's my Plato. Can't I do whatever I want with my Plato? And God says the same question to us. He says, look, look at my creation. Isn't it lawful for me to do whatever I wish with my creation or do I have to listen to my creation said, well, what do you

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want me to do? What's fair in your eyes? Understand something. God does not do things because they are fair, but because God does something that makes it fair, OK? God does not do things because they are fair, but because God does something that that makes it fair.

In other words, we are not allowed as created beings to say, God, we've determined this system of fairness and we believe that in order for you to be fair, you need to fit under these guidelines. No, God, no. Whatever I do is fair and you fit under that. And isn't it fair isn't it lawful that I just do whatever I want with what's my own now? Understand, I'm not saying I understand everything God does. I don't understand a lot of things that happened in my life. I understand why my mom died giving birth to me. I don't understand why my dad got remarried and then my step mom died in a car accident when I was nine.

Understand that. I don't understand why when I was twelve, my dad died of cancer. There are things I don't get, but I don't dare come before a creator, a holy God and say, God, wait a second, you're not allowed to do that with your creation. And it's true, there will be things that you and I don't understand, but why is it that whenever there's something that doesn't make sense to us, we assume God is making a mistake or that God is wrong? Could it possibly be that there's something that we don't understand or something we don't see just yet?

The greatest quote I have ever heard from a preacher was from Jay Vernon McGee. You guys listen to Jay Vernon McGee. And he said one of the most profound things I've ever heard in my life. He said that friends. Now he says this is God's universe and he does things his way. Now, you may have a better way, but you don't have a universe. And the more I thought about, the more I thought, man, that's it, yeah, sure. In my mind I'm saying, God, I don't think you should do things this way. I don't think you shouldn't allow that to happen. And what God saying that's fine. And when you get your universe, you do it that way, then, you know.

But isn't that the truth? This is God's universe, his creation. He does things his way. And you and your human mind may think I've got a better way, but we don't have a universe and the freedom of God to do whatever he wants with what is his own. What a powerful thought. Now, some make my question God's power, because they say, well, if God is so powerful, if God really could do whatever he wishes on this earth and we know that he hates evil, then why does evil still go on? If God were so powerful, wouldn't have been his was was Columbine High School his desire then why did he allow evil to go on? Why didn't he kill those murderers before they got to the school or in Texas? What just happened? How come he didn't kill that man before he made it to the church? If God is so powerful, why doesn't he stop these evil people? Maybe God is not so powerful like we think he is. Or as Nietzsche said, maybe God is dead.

Now, if God so powerful, why all the evil you know, the the early Christian early Christians must have asked the same thing about song. God, if you're so powerful, why are you allowing this little guy, Saul, to go around persecuting all the Christians? Why do you allow him to go out and kill all these Christians and put them in jail? Whatever. Why do you allow the torture? Why do you allow this man to live? And what did what did what did Saul say later in his life? We just heard it earlier from the member and first, Timothy, that the passage she wrote or she wrote.

That's very nice letter you wrote in First Timothy, chapter one. Remember what Paul says? He says in verse fifteen, it's a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners among whom I'm for most of all. And yet for this reason, I found mercy in order that in me as the foremost Jesus Christ might demonstrate his perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life palsies. I thank God that he showed me mercy. Is this so that I would be the example. So that would be the example forever of God's

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perfect patience. He wanted to be the example God use saw as the example, Paul, as the example of patience so that others would look at that and say, OK, so God was just being patient with Saul and then he turned his life around.

Why does God allow evil? One word, patience. Paul says, Look at me as an example, God was patient with me when Romans two, he says, don't think lightly of the patients and the kindness of God, not realizing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance, that God has ordained, that, you know, I will punish, I will not store up and hold back my wrath forever. But he does say right now that he is being patient.

This is don't take that lightly. Romans two, four and five don't take lightly the riches of his patience and his kindness, because don't you know that that kindness should lead you to repent? What happens more often than not, though, is that God's kindness and his patience for not punishing us leads us to more sin rather than leading us to repentance. So many people think, you know what, I stand against God. I don't get punished for it. He must not know. I must be getting away with something.

I understand you guys, you and I do not get away with anything yet. God is patient with us that we might repent. Let's not take that lightly. We serve an all powerful God who could do anything he wants. Could God take my life this very second if you want it to? Absolutely. In fact, you realize that it's OK. He has the freedom to take my life before this sermon ends and he could very well choose to do that. And it would be OK, because I'm his creative being, he's that far beyond me, you know, I want to close with the illustration of job man. What a what an incredible story. Just real quickly, you guys know the story of job. But this is this is where it really hits me. Remember, Joe, he was the upright, righteous man. He was like the godless man on the whole earth. And and yet God takes away, you know, he's a slave.

Come here. Someone just took all your sheep. Oh, great. Bad day. Someone just came and took all your cows, your oxen, your this, your that. You know, these guys just stole this. Hey, another messenger comes. Guess what, you know, your whole family just died except for your wife and that wasn't even a good thing. You know, you got to when you read about it, the way she nags them, you go, gosh, wow, that's not really a blessing.

All these things are happening and they're going, gosh, this is gone, this is gone. This is gone. And you see, Joe just absolutely wiped out that after that, he gets all these boils, these sores on his body and he and you find them. They're just in chapter two with with these pots that he's scraping the sores off with. And you just picture this, this guy laying in sackcloth and ashes. He's just lost his whole family. He's lost all his animals, all his possessions. And now he's got this disease and it's and it's killing him and he's grabbing these pots and anything just to scrape away some of that pain.

And after all these chapters of of suffering and you hear about his torment and everything that goes on, finally, Joe works up the courage to ask a very little question of God. It's to me when I read it, I read and go, man, that was very polite. That was very gracious of Joe. I mean, even after all that happened, his wife says, hey, why don't you curse God and die? And Joe says to his wife, look, shall we just accept the good from God, not the evil? I'm thinking, man, this is a righteous, righteous man. And finally, you know, around chapter three or so, he finally comes to God, it's God.

I just got a tiny question. It starts in thirty one. And he goes, You know what? I've made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully upon a woman. He goes on, I'm doing good in the purity area because when when strangers, aliens come and ask for things, don't I always give it to them? Because I don't, I don't. I try to like walk away from

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everything you say is wrong. And isn't it true that you punish people when they do things bad and so very politely, very gently, he comes into the presence of God and says, so God y you know, and I, I listen to it.

I think, man, that's a good question. And that's very well stated, very respectful and everything else. I mean, that's a decent question to ask. And then I read God's response man and a job. Thirty eight after after job has been so polite. I think so kind and so gracious before this. Holy God. He just wants to know how come God's answer blows me away in job thirty eight it says then the Lord answered job out of the whirlwind. Who is this that darkens council by words without knowledge. Brace yourself like a man. I will ask you and you instruct me. Tell me where were you when I laid the foundation of the Earth?

You know, I read that and and he say, you know, I mean, after Joe has been so cool, I think to God, God says to him out of the whirlwind says, brace yourself. Hold on, Joe. You just hold on, gird up your loins like a man. He goes, you got some questions. Let me ask you some questions first, because you will sit and I will question you. And he says, where were you when you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Go on, Joe. You know what? Tell me something. You were just asking me a question. Let me ask you something. Where were you when I created the world? Because you're so brilliant. I could really use your help. I mean, sarcastically God ask the question, where were you? Where were you when I laid the foundation of the Earth? Because have you ever have you ever in your life?

Commanded the morning he asked of Joe. Another question for you, Joe, because you got so many questions for let me ask you, have you ever just told The Sun to rise? No, I don't think so. Where were you when I created the world? You weren't there helping me because how dare you then ask me questions. How dare you question me? Who is this? Who darkens my counsel without knowledge? That's intense. That's intense.

That God does not take lightly when we come before him and say, God, how could you do that? And your job? You know, that's the perfect example. If anyone on this earth ever had a right to question God, it would be Joe. And God says, look, I'm your creator. You weren't around when I made the world. So don't go questioning what I do with it. Pretty intense, you guys. We are not allowed to be casual about God. We are not allowed to have this arrogant attitude of God. You don't you you're not allowed to do this to me.

Our God is a great all powerful holy God. That's why he said, Creation, you were made for me, so honor me, worship me, respect me, because my name will be great among the nations. And so if you guys by all I don't want to worship me, you know what? I'll find people on the other end of the earth who will there will always be people who worship God with all their hearts. How much greater would be if God could say that on the other side the Earth and say, you know what, I wish you guys would shut the doors because look, Oprah, Biola, that's what I expect. There's people who worship me with all their hearts. There's people who respect me and honor me. So you guys can go ahead and close your doors because I'm saying true worship their God is that that is all I will accept. Anything less is evil because I'm a great God and I deserve your best. Let's let's end in prayer.

Again, as you bang your head, do not forget who we're about to talk to, we are about to speak to a holy God on his throne who spoke us all into existence, who can do anything he wants to right now. God, again, we apologize if any of our thoughts we're not honoring to you in this past day for any of our words, any of our actions did not please you. We beg your forgiveness if we have ever dishonored you or questioned you said things that we just absolutely regret now, God, because we realize you're our creator, you're beyond us, and you can do whatever you want. And so, God, right now, we are just an absolute are that you would even listen to us, that you care for us and you love us, God. And we we just praise you for that. And we thank you for that.

We thank you for listening to my frail voice as I represent us as human beings before a holy, all powerful God. We're in awe of your creation. I can't even imagine what it would be like to speak into existence. All of this. And so we just humbly bow before you and say, God, we recognize we are your created beings, created by you and for you and use us for your pleasure today, show us God, how can we serve you today? How can you use us? How can we bring you glory today? How can we please you as your molded beings? Thank you. That we're wonderfully, fearfully made. We're made exactly the way you wanted us. And so we don't even question that.

Each of us has our gifts and abilities and you want us to use whatever our flaws and our strengths for you. And that's fine. We will serve you today, God, because you are a holy all powerful God and we praise you. We praise the name of Jesus. We lift you up. You are all that matters. God, you are all that matters. You are everything to us. Everything you do is fair. Everything you do is right. And we just don't understand because our minds are not as great as yours. And so we worship you today and we lift you up and we praise the mighty name of Jesus. And it's in his name that we pray. Amen.

[End of Recording].