Deep Dive into Ken's Message from 3-9-25 "Ancient Faith: I Believe in God"

Bible Study Questions

- 1. Acts 17 shows Paul standing before philosophers with the goal of making God known. In what ways do you see God taking the initiative to make Himself known in your life? (Acts 17:22-31)
- 2. Hebrews 11:6 states, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." What does it mean to "earnestly seek" God, and how have you experienced God's rewards in your spiritual journey? (Hebrews 11:6)
- 3. The sermon begins with "In the beginning God..." (Genesis 1:1). How does acknowledging God as "the central fact of the universe" change your perspective on daily challenges? (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 111:10)
- 4. Psalm 100:3 declares, "Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his." How does the concept of God's ownership over us challenge modern values of independence and autonomy? (Psalm 100:3, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- 5. Romans 1:19-20 suggests that God's "invisible qualities" are "clearly seen" through creation. What aspects of nature most powerfully reveal God's character to you personally? (Romans 1:19-20, Psalm 19:1-4)
- 6. The sermon mentions that God revealed Himself in nature, in the human heart, and supremely in Jesus. According to John 1:18, Colossians 1:15, and Hebrews 1:3, what specific aspects of God's character does Jesus reveal? (John 1:18, Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:3)
- 7. The testimony of "T" demonstrates how encountering God changes lives forever. What was the most significant change in your life after you came to believe in God? (2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20)
- 8. The sermon suggests that biblical belief is more than mental assent—it's an "action verb" involving allegiance and changed behavior. How does James 2:14-26 develop this concept of active faith? (James 2:14-26)
- 9. Ken references 2 Timothy 1:12: "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that Day." What does it mean to commit something to God's keeping, and what have you entrusted to Him? (2 Timothy 1:12, 1 Peter 4:19)
- 10. The story of "T" involves dreams and supernatural experiences. How do you understand God's use of dreams, visions, and supernatural encounters in Scripture and today? (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17, Job 33:14-18)
- 11. The sermon mentions that "T" now faces persecution for his faith, yet considers knowing God worth any cost. How does Matthew 13:44-46 (the parables of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price) illuminate this perspective? (Matthew 13:44-46, Philippians 3:7-8)
- 12. Ken quotes a 450-year-old explanation of believing in "God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth," which emphasizes God's provision, protection, and goodness. How does this ancient understanding of God compare with contemporary views of God in our culture? (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 104:1-35, Matthew 6:25-34)

Discussion Questions

- 1. Ken shares the story of "T," who cried out to God in his darkest moment. Have you ever reached a point of desperation where you called out to God? What was that experience like?
- 2. The sermon states, "God is the central fact of the universe." How does placing God at the center of your understanding of reality affect your daily decisions and priorities?
- 3. Ken describes how we often resist the idea that "we belong to God" and that "He can do with us as He pleases." Why do you think this concept is difficult for people to accept in today's culture?
- 4. The sermon compares observing creation to visiting someone's home and learning about them through what you see. What aspects of God's character do you see revealed in the natural world around you?
- 5. Ken emphasizes that God "has gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure that He is known." What extraordinary ways has God worked in your life to make Himself known to you?
- 6. The testimony describes how "T" placed both the Koran and the New Testament under his pillow as a test. Have you ever "tested" God in some way? What was the outcome?
- 7. If someone asked you, "How can I know who God really is?" how would you respond based on the principles in this sermon?
- 8. Ken explains that biblical belief is not just mental agreement but "an action verb" that changes behavior. What's one way your behavior has changed because of what you believe about God?
- 9. Despite facing potential persecution and family estrangement, "T" considers knowing God worth any sacrifice. What has following God cost you, and why do you consider it worthwhile?
- 10. The sermon references ancient creeds and confessions. How important do you think these historical statements of faith are for Christians today, and why?
- 11. Ken says that "it isn't the size of your belief that matters—it's the object of your belief." How does this statement challenge or encourage you in your faith journey?
- 12. The sermon concludes with Paul's confession: "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able..." What have you committed to God, and what gives you confidence that He is able to keep it?