

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S1E9

Title - Mystery and Paradox

Description - We need to cultivate a mindset that allows for the mysterious in our lives. In this episode we will look at how we can lay the foundation for developing this mindset.

We have to develop a framework for understanding the Old Testament.

A constant reminder: We need to think this way: We have to think with two hands. Got this illustration from Ray Vanderlan.

You're outside of a formal room in your home that never gets used. You're sitting outside the room, and you can see inside the room, but from where you're sitting, you've got a certain view of the room. This is your view/experience of the room. We have the same thing happening in western culture when it comes to the Bible. We see it one way from our experiences.

But then one day, your grandmother allows you to see the room from the inside, or from a different perspective. This is what seeing the Bible through the Hebraic eastern mind will do for us when we look at the Bible. It's a different experience/perspective of the same Bible that we've always known and loved.

So in our western mind, we tend to think either one or the other. But if you asked someone with a Jewish / Hebraic mindset the question, "Did God choose you, or did you choose God?" they would answer, "both."

So then, does the question become, are there no black & white areas? Is the answer always, "Yes & Both?" And how do you know?

One of the things Jews embrace that we don't like is "Mystery." The idea that it's a paradox or some apparent contradiction in scripture doesn't scare a Hebraic mindset.

Jews were not so much concerned with information as they were with imitation. They wanted to model and behave the way God wanted commanded them to.

When a Jew thinks about Genesis, they think, what did God do in Genesis that we can model today?

We see God creating, so then God endorses creativity. God is also a God of rest, if He rested on the 7th day, then we should to. God empowered Adam. God visited the sick and cared for Abraham. He cared for His people.

We see this progression where God is doing certain things. The Jews thought, what can I learn, so that I can then do?

Another example: Eternal life. From our western mindset we look into our grandmother's formal living room and we think of eternal life is later, some point in the future. That starts when we die.

Eternal life is mostly thought of in our culture as quantitative, it has a set time where it begins and is measured in an amount of time.

But for Jesus it wasn't about quantity or a certain place you go to. It was qualitative. It was about living in communion with God today.

Not how can I get to Heaven one day, but how can I live out God's kingdom here on earth in the here and now.

As we close: What kind of life are you living today? What sort of impact are you making in the world around you?