

## Sermon Notes – December 4, 2016

### Review: Advent 2016

- ⇒ As we entered Advent, we saw that God’s redemptive history has several key moments we called “mountain tops.”
- ⇒ Our Christmas programs have intentionally visited these mountain tops. Over the years, we have looked at Ruth, David, the exile, the birth of Christ, the church age, and Heaven. This year we start at the beginning.
- ⇒ We were reminded that the purpose of God in all of history is to display his glory. This is also the reason you exist.

### A Story of Faith & Waiting (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-6, Romans 4:1-4)

- ⇒ Abraham was blessed to be a blessing. God wasn’t playing **favorites** or choosing Abraham at the **expense** of others.
- ⇒ Abraham had great victories and great failures, yet his faith in God’s promise is what is commended for.
- ⇒ Why did God make Abraham wait? Was God **forgetful**, was He **sadistic**, or did He have a purpose?

### Seeing Through a Glory-Focused Lens

- ⇒ This is ultimately **God’s story**, and the purpose for stretching Abraham’s faith was ultimately for God’s **glory**.
- ⇒ If we look at redemptive history we see a pattern: in the wait, in the difficulty, and in the stretching, God removes the ability for people to **steal God’s glory**.
- ⇒ In Romans 3:19-26, we see all the history leading up to Christ serves to **silence every mouth** and remove any **doubt** about who gets the **credit** for our salvation.

### What Should We Think of a Glory-Seeking God?

- ⇒ Is a God who demands to be worshipped worthy?
- ⇒ If we remember that God is the creator and don’t lower Him to our level, then the answer is Yes!
- ⇒ Three reasons God’s desire to be glorified is good and should be welcomed by us:

Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-6  
Pastor Tyler Pease

God’s Promises Stretch Our Faith

God’s Promises Stretch Our Faith

Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-6  
Pastor Tyler Pease

1. God **intentionally created** us to be worshippers and we are most satisfied when **fulfilling** our **design**.
2. God is not **threatened** by false worship, He is **saddened** by it. He knows the dangers (Psalm 115:2-8).
3. A call to worship is a call to **relationship**. God doesn’t need our gifts but the gift brings the **gift-giver**.

### God Stretches My Faith for His Glory!

- ⇒ As I wait and am stretched, I’ve had a much easier time giving God the credit. I also become a testimony to a **watching world**.
- ⇒ God’s refinement might benefit me, but I’m not the focus. God’s refinement is God-focused—it’s purpose is to make me a better **worshipper of God**.

### Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ Do you care about God’s glory. If you are a Christ follower you should (Matthew 6:9).
- ⇒ Can you embrace life’s difficulties? On this side of difficulty, it is impossible to see clearly what God’s purpose is. Will you have faith in God’s established character?
- ⇒ Don’t exchange difficulty for ease at the risk of your spiritual health. Some people only want ease right now and they risk finding great difficulty at the end of life.

**Next Sunday: December 11, 2016**

“God’s Promises are Always on Time”

Advent Sunday #3

(Genesis 12:1-3 & 21:1-7)

Pastor Jay Mosser