



**Series:** Genesis

**Passage:** Genesis

**Title:** Epilogue, Understanding the Heart of God

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard, 9/17/2023

**Discussion Starter** – Why do you think God created the world, nature, and man? What is the purpose of man? What does God seek from His creation? Why is a correct understanding of God’s purpose critical to a proper view of our place and purpose in this universe? How does Proverbs 14:6 shape your approach to these questions?

- 1) What was God’s statement at the completion of the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation, (Genesis 1:26)?
- 2) Was “the fall” of Genesis 3 part of God’s plan? Was it His best plan? Why or why not?
  - a) What has life “under the fall” taught you about God?
- 3) How do the following narratives from Genesis teach us that God wants to be known personally by every individual? Cain and Able; Noah; The Tower of Babel
- 4) What do these narratives teach us about man’s desire to know God?
- 5) Read Romans 9:22-24. What does it mean that God “endured with much longsuffering”? Is such endurance difficult for Him? Why does He choose to endure the rebellion of sinful men? Is there a benefit to be gained for Him?
- 6) What narratives did we see in Genesis that demonstrate God passionately and graciously pursuing man?
- 7) Read Matthew 13:45-46. How did Jesus fulfill this parable?
- 8) How is the gospel pre-figured in Genesis? (Think of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph...)
- 9) Jacob resisted the work of God in his life for decades. When did he fully yield himself to the Hand of God? How does Jacob describe his life to Pharaoh in Genesis 47:7-10? How did this transition come about?
- 10) Read Luke 15:11-32. Why does the Father allow the prodigal to leave? Compare the prodigal’s final relationship with his father with that of his older brother.
  - b) Would you trade the trials of Jacob, or the condition of the prodigal to gain the ultimate relationship they found with their Father? Was there any other way?
  - c) Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What does Paul say is being produced by our afflictions? Is there any other way for us to see and understand the Glory and Goodness of God?
  - d) How does ‘life under the fall’ serve to conform us into the image of God?