



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

"Let Me Introduce Myself..."

Points from Sunday's Message

Point 1 - For God, His glory is His goodness.

Point 2 - When God introduces Himself, He leads with mercy.

Point 3 - My only hope is God's never-failing mercies.

Point 4 - At the cross, mercy and justice meet.

Key Verse:

"And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.'"

—Exodus 34:6

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Miles opened by pointing out how we tend to introduce ourselves by what we *do* — "I am a pastor," "I am a nurse" — rather than by who we *are*. How do you usually introduce yourself, and what does that reveal about where you're looking to find your identity?

2. Of all the true things God could have said about Himself — holy, just, almighty, eternal — the first word He chose was "merciful." Why does it matter so much that He *led* with mercy, especially coming right after the golden calf?

Further Reading: Exodus 32:1–14 (the golden calf and Moses' intercession); Exodus 33:18–19 (Moses asks to see God's glory).

3. When Moses said "show me your glory," God answered, "I will make all my goodness pass before you." What does it mean that, for God, His glory *is* His goodness? How does that cut against the picture of God a lot of people carry around (Dawkins' caricature, the "get off my lawn" God)?

Further Reading: Psalm 145:8–9; Romans 2:4

4. Miles named the old Marcion error — the idea of two competing gods, an angry Old Testament one and a nice New Testament one — and said the answer to "how can God be both merciful *and* just?" is found on a second mountain: Calvary. In your own words, how does the cross hold mercy and justice together rather than pitting them against each other?

Further Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:18–21; Romans 3:23–26.

5. (*Application*) Jeremiah wrote, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed... they are new every morning." Where in your life are you currently "waiting at the foot of the mountain," bracing for a verdict? What would actually change this week if you took God at His word that His mercies are new every morning?

Further Reading: Lamentations 3:21–23; Hebrews 4:14–16

6. (*Application*) Miles prayed that we'd not only have our own misconceptions reframed, but be given words to "reframe it for others" — neighbors, coworkers, family who've been kept from God by what they assume He's like. Who in your circle carries a distorted picture of God, and what's one concrete way you could help them meet the God who leads with mercy?

Further Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20 (ambassadors for Christ); 1 Peter 3:15.

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.