

Lesson 1

Tiger Territory

Introduction: pg. ix

People are starving for the awe of God

Why are people who are starving for success, money, excitement or acceptance, still starving for more?

Describe the ancient need many have left untouched?

“We need a great and awesome God. A God worth worshiping. Our souls find satisfaction only in a God who is grand enough to worship and close enough to love”

Chapter 1

I Devine Invasion

A) We love talking about God

- 1) How does scripture first reveal God to Us?
- 2) What do we typically hear about God when we worship?
 - (a) *“Rarely do we hear about God’s mystery and majesty, let alone a word about his wrath.”* A blazing holiness of God with his love at the center of it.
- 3) According to the author of our book what do we rarely hear about?

B) Into the Wild

- 1) Explain the Zanesville, Ohio story
- 2) Two different worlds collided
 - (a) The exotic collided with the ordinary
 - (b) The familiar disrupted the other

C) Yawning at Tigers

- 1) *Scripture, “a consuming fire”, “Judge of all earth”, “Lord of host” – a portrait that portrays God poised for battle, at the head of a heavenly army.*
- 2) *Discontinuity with human kind. The common refrain of scripture is that “God is not human that He should....”*
- 3) How does the Church respond to being in the midst of God?
- 4) According to the author, what is behind our lack of reverence, fear and aw of God? (pg.6)
- 5) The author states that “God is radically different from us, in degree and kind. He is dissimilar, wholly other, dangerous, alien, holy and wild.” How does this statement make you feel?
- 6) If we truly believed that a God of this kind was in our midst, would we respond as if a tiger was in our midst, locking our doors and calling the police?
- 7) The author states that for the most part we neither tremble in fear nor thrill with excitement at the prospect of encountering this wild deity. **WHY?**

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8) What is the author's analysis?

D) Dangerous Presence

- 1) What about the analogy of God described as plutonium?
- 2) Can we perceive the power behind a thousand nuclear bombs exploding at once? The blinding light, the sound, the wind, the heat?
- 3) *Remember how scripture recounts encounters with the holiness of God. Moses, the Ark of the covenant Elijah, Isaiah, Paul on the road to Damascus, the disciples at the transfiguration.*
- 4) *How do we encounter God?*

E) Other and intimate

- 1) God is dangerous?
- 2) God's holiness is deadly, incompatible with life, especially for sinful mortals like us.
 - (a) He is not a house cat; he's a lion. You are free to pet him if you'd like; just don't expect to get your arm back.
 - (b) How do we approach God?
- 3) What does Exodus 33:20 say address the holiness of God?
 - (a) "No one may see me and live" (Ex.33:20)
- 4) Half the story- God is dangerous, yes, but also loving.
 - (a) It is not one or the other, it is both. Not one or the other.
 - (b) He is an Intimate Stranger,
 - (c) We are the objects of his fierce affection. The temple veil is torn. The Holy of Holies beckons, and we are free to enter. Just remember to tread lightly..he's still the same God.