



# CBC Men's Fellowship

October 14, 2014

## *The Holiness of God*

### Chapter 4 – **Trauma of Holiness**

#### **Key quotes from chapter 4 –**

Men are never duly touched and impressed with a conviction of their insignificance until they have contrasted themselves with the majesty of God. *John Calvin*

God has to listen to complaints ... from an ungrateful humanity every day. Heaven is bombarded with the repeated charges of angry people. God is called “unloving,” “cruel,” and “aloof,” as if He has not done enough to prove His compassion for us. *p.62*

Jesus controlled the fierce forces of nature by the sound of His voice...The sea became like glass...Now that the sea was calm, the fear of the disciples **increased**. *P. 63*

**First question** - How do we account for that?

It is one thing to fall victim to the flood or to fall prey to cancer; *it is another thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* *P.64*

The disciples could find no category adequate to capture the person of Jesus. He was beyond typecasting. He was *sui generis* – in a class by Himself. *P.64*

Jesus was different. He possessed an awesome otherness. He was the supreme mysterious stranger. He made people uncomfortable. *P.65*

At the moment Peter realized that he was in the presence of the Holy Incarnate. He was desperately uncomfortable. *P.68*

Sinful people are not comfortable in the presence of the holy. *P.69*

Peter wanted to be with Jesus, until He got too close. Then Peter cried, “Please leave.” *P.71*

The incarnate Christ is no longer walking the earth. He has ascended into heaven. No one sees Him or speaks audibly with Him in the flesh today. Yet the threatening power of His holiness is still felt. *P.79*

The world could tolerate Jesus; they could love Him, but only at a distance. Christ is safe for us if securely bound by space and time. But a present Christ could not survive in a world of hostile men. P.87-88

### **Questions that will help and influence our discussion on chapter 4 -**

2. James 1:22 tells us “not merely listen to the Word.” We are not to come together merely to study or discuss the Word. Rather we are to do as it says and live it in our lives. In light of chapter 4 how does this relate to holiness?

Peter encountered Jesus performing a miracle and responded by saying, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man. This was not the first miracle Peter had witnessed.

3. Why do you think the miracle of the fish had such a profound impact on Peter when he had already witnessed other miracles?
4. What caused Peter to become so aware of his own sinfulness?
5. Compare Peter’s experience with that of Isaiah 6.
6. Compare and contrast Peter’s restoration with Isaiah’s.
7. In Luke 8:26-39 records another instance where people were afraid in the presence of Jesus. Compare the condition of the demon-possessed man before and after his healing.

8. Compare the reaction of the townspeople to Jesus with the man who had been healed (verses 35-38). How would you explain the two totally opposite reactions?
  
9. A third encounter with holiness of Christ is recorded in Revelation 1:9-20. What is the difference about this encounter from those recorded in the Gospels?
  
10. Compare the reaction of apostle John to that of Isaiah.
  
11. During Jesus' earthly ministry, John enjoyed a very intimate relationship with Him. (John 13:23-25 and 21:20-24) In view of this, account for John's reaction when he saw Jesus in the Revelation passage.

**Questions at the end of chapter 3 –**

1. Is your view of God's holiness like Peter's? Do you want to run from it?
  
2. Have you ever experienced the trauma of God's holiness?
  
3. Describe a time when you were comforted by God's holiness?
  
4. Of what aspect of God's holiness were you most aware this past week?