

Are You Putting Limits on God?

(617 words)

This post is adapted from Kathy Howard's new devotional "Deep-Rooted: Growing through the Gospel of Mark."

During the time we lived in Alberta, Canada for my husband's job, God allowed us to be part of an incredible ministry to spiritual seekers. Dozens were saved through a Bible study we led at our church. It was thrilling to see so many come to faith in Christ. But I still pray for one specific young woman who rejected His free gift of salvation.

I'll call her Tracy. She came to a women's study group we held in the home of one of our church members. Tracy felt her spiritual need and was determined to fill it with something. She studied with us on Tuesday nights and with a Jehovah's Witnesses study group on Wednesday nights. Tracy heard biblical truth on Tuesdays and on Wednesdays she heard distortions and false teaching. I prayed for her and I presented the truth of the Gospel over and over. In the end, Tracy rejected the truth of Christ and joined the Jehovah Witnesses.

Tracy took the wrong path because she underestimated the power of God. Because she couldn't understand the triune nature of God, she rejected the full divinity of Jesus. If she couldn't understand it, then she wouldn't accept it. So instead, she chose to follow a god she could get her mind around. Wrong belief based on incorrect or insufficient knowledge of Scripture can be eternally dangerous.

Jesus pointed out this truth to a group of Sadducees that tried to trip Him up with a complicated question. (See Mark 12:18-23.) This Jewish religious party possessed greater political power than the Pharisees because of their cooperation with Rome. The Sadducees rejected the resurrection because they didn't see it in the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses), in which they placed more value than the rest of the Old Testament Scriptures.

After Jesus patiently explained that God doesn't need marriage in heaven, He showed them how the Pentateuch supports the resurrection. (See Mark 12:24-27.) They had strayed from the path of God's truth because they lacked sufficient knowledge of both Scripture and God's power.

Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? Mark 12:24, ESV

They denied the resurrection because of their limited view of God. They didn't believe Him powerful enough to raise the dead. Ironically, it would only be a matter of days until God gave them a tomb-busting demonstration. After suffering a brutal death on a Roman cross, Jesus would get up and walk out of His grave.

Like Tracy, the Sadducees' eternal hope was restricted by their limited view of God. Their knowledge of God was restricted by their limited understanding of Scripture. At best, our own limited understanding will impede our spiritual growth and service. And at worst, a limited understanding of God may impact our eternity.

Why would we want to serve a "god" we can understand? That kind of god is no god at all. But, thankfully, our God is not hindered by our faulty understanding. He is not limited by our lack of knowledge. We serve a God who is all-powerful and transcendent. He spoke the heavens and earth into existence. He will accomplish what He determines to accomplish. He will fulfill every promise. Our hope in Him is sure and eternal.

In what ways might your view/understanding of God be limited? What will you do to expand your knowledge of God?

Lord God, forgive me for the times I have rejected Your will or Your ways because I lacked understanding. I praise You because You are greater than I will ever be able to understand! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Kathy Howard

A former "cultural Christian," Kathy Howard now has a passion for God's Word that's contagious. With more than 30 years of experience, Kathy has taught in dozens of states, internationally, and in a wide range of venues including multi-church conferences and large online events. She has a Masters of Christian Education from the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary. Kathy is the author of 10 books, including the new "meaty" devotional *Deep-Rooted: Growing through the Gospel of Mark*. She writes for multiple online magazines and devotional sites. Kathy and her husband live in the Dallas/Ft Worth area near family. They have three married children, five grandchildren, and two accidental dogs. Kathy provides free discipleship resources and blogs regularly at www.KathyHoward.org. She also connects with women at [Facebook](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#).