Revelation

Chapter 4-5

The fourth and fifth chapters of Revelation mince no words about the holiness of God. His size and scope, his power and wisdom, his perfection and righteousness – all of it so immense, so immeasurable, so magnificent – it's impossible to truly comprehend. Human words really can't do Him justice.

And...that's really the point.

We can't really grasp the beauty of the Gospel – of God's sacrificial work for us – until we understand how far away we really are from who He is. How uncrossable is the cavernous gap. Revelation 4 takes us there.

READ: Revelation 4

Q: What are some of the words and imagery used to describe God's bigness and holiness in this passage? Read them out loud.

Q: Why does God deserve our worship?

Q: What happens to us when we fail to worship God for who He really is?

Q: What lessons does this passage teach us about the purpose and importance of worship?

To grasp the power of the Good News, we first have to understand the bad — that no amount of "goodness" is good enough. Moralism cannot save us. We need Someone greater.

Q: What does truly understanding God's holiness reveal to us about ourselves?

READ: Matthew 5:21-22

Q: How did Jesus up the ante on what it means to be holy?

Q: Why is this important to the message of the Gospel?

READ: Revelation 5

Q: What does it mean that there is only One who can open the scroll? Why is this important?

Q: Define the word "redeem." What does it mean?

Q: Why does redemption require blood? Why was the blood of the Lamb important?

When we truly see the holiness of God and we truly understand the depravity in ourselves, the need for a Savior becomes strikingly clear. There is only One who can cross the cavernous divide, who can open the scroll, and His Name is Jesus.

Q: The world is happy to talk about God. Politicians acknowledge God, Hollywood actors thank God in acceptance speeches, other religions proclaim a God-figure. But few want to talk about Jesus, the only one worthy to bridge the gap between God and man. Why do you think that is?

The Gospel is "Good News," in that Christ accomplishes for us what we could never accomplish for ourselves. But in a way, it's also tough news to swallow, because mankind hates being dependent. We want to be at the center of life, we internally despise needing something bigger than ourselves.

Q: This is true even of those of us who call ourselves Christians. Can you describe a way this week that you struggled putting God at the center of your life? In His proper place of worship?

Q: What are some other things you naturally put in His place?

PAUSE: Take some time to reflect on God's holiness and your need for a Savior. Recommit to placing Him in the proper place of worship in your life this week.