

Immerse Day 77 :: May 18

Mt. Gerizim, the mountain of blessings. Mt. Ebal, the mountain of curses. Once God's people stand in the Promised Land, they are to remind themselves of the benefits of continuing to follow God, and the pain of turning away to other gods.

"If you obey, you will be blessed. If you do not, you will be cursed."

The list that follows is graphic to say the least. God gives a lot of detail about what this blessing may look like for His people, but even more about what this curse may be.

And it's hard for us to comprehend. This God, who promises familial cannibalism to those who do not obey Him, is the same God who sent Jesus to die in our place. Could it be that we have domesticated our image of God so much that we are no longer capable of truly knowing this God of the Old Testament?

I just came from sitting with my wife as she read "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" to my 5-year-old son. And reading this passage today reminded me of a scene from the book. It is a description of Aslan, the lion who represents Christ throughout the book. Mr. Beaver – yes, a real talking beaver – is telling the newcomer Susan about Aslan.

(Mr. Beaver begins,)"Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"... "Safe?" said Mr Beaver ..."Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

Have we domesticated God so much that we've made Him safe? Well, no. We don't influence God, but we do influence our (and others') image of God, and that has become far too safe. Oh, He's good. In fact, He's The Good. "Goodness" is defined in relation to God's character for we who follow Him. But "Good" and "Safe" are two very different things.

Can you worship this God who promises blessings AND curses for His own people? Can you follow a God who isn't like the God you've created in your own mind? Can you love the God of the Old Testament? He is the same God, however different He may seem from the God of the New Testament. And it is true that God never changes. But it is also true that we always change, and so God's interaction with us must change as well.