

Message Reflections

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Reflections accompany the [weekly message](#).

I have five brothers and sisters. My sisters are two years older than I am and two years younger than I am, so growing up, we shared pretty much everything. Sometimes willingly, sometimes not so much. We might have sometimes felt that our belongings, our space, our possessions weren't very personal. My sister Michelle and I shared a room most of our childhoods. One day I decided that we should each have our own personal sides of the room. I volunteered to divide the room, and made one half slightly larger than the other. I pointed this out before Michelle made her choice, and she of course chose the larger side. "Enjoy your side," I said as I walked out of the room, "my side has the door, so you're in here forever." If you have siblings, you might understand the triumph I felt as my side of the room became *my own personal space* (at least until our parents decided that particular division of the room wouldn't stand).

Personal *matters*. The things in our lives that are personal to us are the ones that we value the most, the ones on which we spend the most time, the ones we put our hearts into.

We have spent the last several weeks hearing about the personal nature of our God, highlighted in the book of Psalms. From the personal nature of our creation told in Psalm 139 to the personal King in Psalm 2, to our access to a personal counselor in Psalm 77, Scripture makes clear that our God is a personal God.

Psalm 24 begins, *"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths."*

I have read those verses over and over this week. I know that everything I have, everything I can see, everything I have ever heard of belongs to the Lord, but I'm not sure that I spend much time considering that reality. I've been sick for most of this week, and the tiny white blood cells that are fighting off this infection? Those are God's design. The towering oak tree outside my window as I write? God's design. The ocean that took six hours to fly over on our last vacation? God's design. Each of the almost 8 billion people on this planet? God's design. And this creation, over all of which he has dominion, is *personal* to him.

Verses 3-6 continue: *Who may climb the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell*

lies. They will receive the LORD's blessing and have a right relationship with God their savior. Such people may seek you and worship in your presence, O God of Jacob."

Because God is holy, we must be holy to approach him. If the above were the criteria that had to be met on my own merit, I'd be ruled out from access to the holy God for sure. But God, in a very personal way, provided access to himself and sanctification through his son Jesus, so that we can approach our holy God.

Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty; the LORD, invincible in battle. Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. Who is the King of glory? The LORD of Heaven's Armies—he is the King of glory. (vs. 7-10)

Psalms 24 begins by identifying God as the ruler of everything on the earth, and concludes by identifying him as the King of glory. Throughout the Psalms, David uses powerful imagery in his poetry to describe the majesty of the Lord, and in Psalm 24 (and nowhere else in the Bible) identifies God as the King of glory. God is not only the God of the earth, of what we can see and touch. He is the King of glory, with ultimate sovereignty over everything. It is an incredible privilege that we have personal access to this great God.

Questions for reflection:

1. We tend to prioritize what is personal to each of us. How does the nature of God as a personal God influence your relationship with him?
2. Psalm 24:1 identifies everything on earth as belonging to the Lord. What is something that you have difficulty surrendering to him?
3. What does it mean that God is the King of glory? How does this inform your relationship with him?
4. If you have been reading through Psalms throughout this sermon series, what have you discovered about the nature of God that you may not have known before?
5. Of all of the personal attributes of God mentioned in this sermon series (My Salvation, My Creator, My Strength, My King, My Freedom, My Counselor, My God), which one most resonates with you?

