

## **LESSON TEN: HOW BIG IS OUR GOD....**

**OUR VIEW OF GOD...Ortberg closes out his book by reminding us that our VIEW OF GOD greatly affects our faith. Our IMAGE OF GOD often says more ABOUT US than the God of the bible. Without knowing it, we substitute a puny god substitute for the God known in Israel, and in the life, death, resurrection of Jesus. We may connect God to GOD/BAD experiences we have had in life. You may be at odds with God right now. You may be unhappy with how your life has turned out, or secretly angry at God or someone else for not holding up their end of the bargain. Every day we walk out the door, we have a choice**

**AM I GOING TO MAKE GOD THE ABSOLUTE CENTER OF MY LIFE? AM I GOING TO DEFINE GOD BY INTERPRETING MY SITUATION IN LIFE OR AM I GOING TO TRUST THAT GOD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS.**

**OUR GOD IS TOO SMALL...one obstacle in knowing God: that we can't see beyond ourselves. We often see is a FAINT REFLECTION-a God who LOOKS LIKE US, thinks/acts the way we do, who confirms our worth. The way we live reveals the size of our God: how we treat others, what we value and devalue, our priorities. Any god we create is an idol. Idols have nothing interesting or crucial to say. They don't require much from us because they aren't seeking to redeem anything. If our God is too small, we become SLAVES TO WHAT OTHERS THINK, yield to temptations with no struggle. If our God is as limited as we are, it shouldn't shock us that we suffer. Amid the storm, Jesus comes to his frightened friends after a long delay and his word to them is**

**COURAGE! I AM. DON'T FEAR...It was GOD'S SELF-REVEALED NAME, Jews were forbidden to say it aloud, but Jesus used it to describe himself, "I AM" In other words, this storm, your life, all life, is in THE GOOD, TRUSTWORTHY HANDS OF THE GREAT "I AM" and I AM SENT ME**

**How we live is the direct result of the size of our God. Will be driven by faith or fear? How we react in life depends on whether we focus on our inadequacy or God's adequacy? What happened on Sea of Galilee also happened other settings: disciples began to see HOW BIG JESUS WAS.**

**WORSHIP...the only way to detect how big of a God we serve: WORSHIP. The word "worship" literally means "bestowing honor". Why does God insist on being worshipped? Does he need us telling him how great he is? We worship, not because God needs it, but because we need it. Otherwise, we quickly forget HOW BIG GOD IS, we let FEAR drive our lives.**