

Discussion Questions January 7, 2018

Crown Casting — Revelation 4

(Share about a significant stress or problem that you currently face in your life.)

After reading the first three chapters of Revelation and learning about the problems and shortcomings of the Church, like the Jews and Greeks in the seven churches, we modern people expect some practical advice on how we can conquer our problems.

- How do you typically try to conquer your problems?
- What kind of advice would you give the seven churches in Revelation 1-3 or a friend with similar issues?
- Take a look at Revelation 4, what do you think this passage calls/invites us to as a response to the Church's shortcomings?
- What stands out to you about God? What reverberations or echos from earlier in Scripture do you see in this passage? What personally impacts you, and why?

During this sermon, Peter read the story *The Pirate Who Tried to Capture the Moon*.

- Can you relate to the pirate in anyway? If so, how?
- In what ways might your relationship with God resemble the pirate's relationship with the moon?

Truly knowing God doesn't come by capturing, studying, and putting Him in a box; it comes through a revelation of who He is.

- Can you think of a time when you knew God rather than "conquered" Him? What was it like? How did it happen?
- Are there any areas in your life where you know *about* God, but and you would like Him to capture your heart? If so, what are they?

"I've heard that if a tribal African wants to know something, he dances with it. If a modern American wants to know something, he captures it and takes it apart."—Peter Hiatt

- What might "dancing with God" rather than "disecting God" look like for you?

Ephesians 2:6 says God "raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

- Can you see yourself in Christ seated in heavenly places?
- What stirs in your heart, knowing that you—a "pirate" have been seated in heavenly places in Christ?
- Can you think of any earthly crowns you would like to cast at His feet? (If so, take a moment to offer them to Him now. And thank Him for crowning you!)

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who **crowns** you with steadfast love and mercy...*
—Psalm 103:1-4

**These questions were prepared by Kimberly Weynen.*