



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Paradox: A God Who Breaks the Rules

Sergio De La Mora

November 12, 2017

Main Idea – For God to use us, we must be willing to let Him break our preconceived ideas and manmade practices that get in the way of moving the Kingdom forward.

God reveals Himself over time

- **Ephesians 3: 8-11 describes God's truths as mysteries revealed to us at points in time.**
- The particular mystery being revealed in Ephesians 3 was that all the rights & privileges of the Jews – as God's chosen nation – were also available to those who weren't Jews. This was an idea He was revealing to the world at that point in time.
- God shows us things over time.
- In so doing, He is a paradox (something that seems contradictory to accepted practices) who breaks apart our preconceived notions as new things are revealed.
- God doesn't change; but our understanding of Him changes.
- **Matthew 12: 1-8 is an instance where Jesus reminded the religious leaders of how God, at numerous places in Scripture, had broken established rules & practices.**

Give God permission

- God gets our attention by stirring up things; by breaking established practices.
- We need to be willing to let God do this for us in order for the Church to be meaningful.

Characteristics of those who allow God to break the rules

- They give God permission to break established practices of their lives.
 - **Matthew 15:6b – “Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.”**
 - Rahab the prostitute sheltered the spies from God's people (Joshua 2: 1-21.)
 - God held the Sun in place until Joshua had defeated his enemies (Joshua 10: 13.)
 - 1 Samuel 16: 2-4 shows how God helped Samuel break rules of sacrifice in order to anoint a new king for Israel.
 - Jesus was born into poverty, not into a higher social class.

- They may not qualify socially, but they qualify spiritually.
 - **1 Samuel 2:7 – The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.**
 - God knows who you are. You are more qualified than you may think. Your qualifications have nothing to do with your position in society.
- God uses people who are soiled, but whom He is ready to sanctify (to set apart and prepare for His purposes.)
 - 1 Samuel 16 describes David - the future king of Israel - as a sheep herder, young, and ruddy.

Our present generation

- We must be willing to let God change our self-made rules so those coming after us will discover His unique destiny for them.
- We need to believe again for a new generation what we believed in our generation.
- “God’s anointing doesn’t make sense until it’s the only sense you have.”

Reflective Questions for Paradox: A God Who Breaks the Rules

- 1. Give an example of a truth that God revealed to you – not all at once – but over a period of time. How was His wisdom demonstrated by showing you this thing over time, instead of all at one time?**
- 2. It is essential we give God “permission” to make changes in our ways of doing things. Why must we consciously give permission for these changes, in order for God to work?**
- 3. Why is it God’s wisdom that He often chooses individuals who were not important in society, or who previously worked in unrecognized places, for His most important assignments?**
- 4. What is your present position in God’s Kingdom? What preconceived rules or practices may He be preparing you to leave behind for a new assignment?**