



How can God be everywhere... and hear everyone's prayers at the same time?

This year's confirmation class keeps me on my toes with lots of great questions - like "Is God a Republican?" (You can listen to my answer in the online recording of the 11-18-18 sermon). The questions above were ones they tossed my way during a recent class.

The most basic answer is pretty simple, "I don't know." But that answer begs another question, "Why don't you know?" The answer to that question is pretty simple as well: "I don't know, because I'm not God. And since I'm not God - and never will be! - there are things about Him that I will never understand. There are things He does that I will never figure out how He was able to accomplish." And I'm okay with that, because I want a God who is way too big to totally understand and explain.

I have noticed, though, that there is a tendency in our modern society to judge God's ability to do things by our own ability to do things. For example, some people just cannot bring themselves to believe that God could possibly have created the world and everything in it in just six, 24-hour days. Why? Because WE couldn't do it!

But, I would say, "Since God is God and we are not, we should expect that He is capable of doing things we can't do. Creating the world in six days should be no big deal for Him."

Think of it this way: The three dogs at our house will never be capable of driving a car - or understanding how to do it. But when I say, "Let's go for a ride," they don't glance at each other with skeptical looks that say, "We could never drive a car, therefore we know he can't possibly drive one either." Just the opposite! They bowl me over heading out the door, because they know I can do things they will never be able to do. And they seem to be just fine with that. They don't have to know how I do it. They don't have to be able to do it themselves. They just sit back and enjoy the ride!

I'd suggest we do the same when it comes to things about God we can't understand. Thank God He can do all sorts of things we can't do - like come to earth as a human being. Like die to take the punishment for our sins. Like rise from His own grave as proof that He has power over sin and death! Thank Him, then just sit back and enjoy the ride!

As we enter the Advent / Christmas Season we will read in Luke chapter one about the angel coming to Mary with the news that she is to be the mother of the Messiah. Mary asks, "How can this be since I am a virgin." The angel finishes his explanation with a statement we would all do well to remember: "Nothing will be impossible for God."

We don't always need to understand "How it can be?" Just thank God that it is!

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net