

11-13-22 Sermon #43

Trusting people is a tough thing to do.

Let's look at children. When you promise a child that you're going to do something, if you don't, they learn quickly not to trust what you say. Children need to know they can trust their mom and dad. As parents, we have to teach them right from wrong and we've all used threats to try and get them to listen. It seems like counting is a popular method. (I think it's why kids learn how to count easier than learning the alphabet. I also wonder if counting up to 5 vs. counting down from 5 has more of an impact).

Kids are smart. They wait till you reach 4, then they usually stop. But, when you reach the count of 5 and they don't stop, now they're challenging us to live up to a "promise". I've also noticed that children respond different to moms compared to dads.

Example; When Trish was at her wits ends, she would tell our kids, "wait till your dad gets home". Just saying "dad" seemed to get them to stop.

We've all experienced broken promises, and we've all broken promises. A child is more willing to trust, but as we grow and experience life more, we learn that actions speak louder than words.

The bible is full of promises from God, and they require trust.

Do you truly believe that God is trustworthy?

I'm going to come back to this question, but first I want to establish a couple of other truths.

Think about how many times you've made plans to do something, and life stops you from doing it. What about when you start your plan and unknown things happen. This can make it difficult for us to live up to what we said we would do.

In relationships, when our parents, spouse, or friends repeatedly let us down, we stop believing them and learn not to trust them.

In previous messages, we've talked about becoming like a child. This is important for being able to trust in God's promises.

I like Matthew 18:19&20 which says,

¹⁹“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Like all of you, I desire to see our church grow but, only God can do that.

We have to plant seeds and water it. We need to trust God and learn from Christ what seed to plant. We need to pray and search the word.

1 Timothy 6:6 says,

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

In the beginning of chapter 6, Paul is writing to Timothy and is referring to slaves and masters.

Paul says that when we have a believing master, we need to serve them even better. God knows how hard it can be to put others above us, and the world is against Godly principles.

All the ugly stuff going on today isn't new to God.

1 Timothy 6:11&12 says,

¹¹But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

False teachers and the love of money are evil and have always been a part of this world.

At the end of the chapter, Paul says this:

²⁰Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

Last week, I spoke about sanctification. God's ways aren't man's ways, and it takes complete trust in God to do what He asks.

I love Ecclesiastes chapter 2. Solomon is explaining that everything we build here on Earth will be left to those who did nothing for it. He says all this is "meaningless" or "vanity". Many people struggle with thinking all things are meaningless, but in Ecclesiastes the word meaningless or vanity means the same as "APART" from God. When we rely on "self", we replace God and make idols in our lives. Solomon tries to help us understand that nothing has meaning if we're not doing it with God. We know God desires that we find happiness, joy, kindness, and peace. We also know the ultimate gift, is the gift of "love". This can only be found by trusting God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 – A Time for Everything – says,

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

I want to focus on verse 11:

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 are all promises, and they require us to trust God.

We can also see Matthew 28:18-20 as a promise – The Great Commission:

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We know that we can't take any of our possessions with us but, we need to believe that we can take others to heaven. This is only done by trusting God and using our voice.

Does verse 19, "Making disciples" scare you?

If we don't bring Christ to others, we're not being obedient.

We're not going to get punished if we don't, but we're kind of telling God that we would rather let the lost stay lost. When people's lives come to an end, all that's going to matter is whether or not they chose Christ as their Lord and Savior. When we come to believe and are baptized, we're dead to our old self and we're putting Jesus' head over us and trusting God's promise that we will never burn in Hell. We're also saying that we want God to be our Shepherd and to protect us from the evils of this world.

If you've ever studied sheep, sheep trust nothing. They fear everything, Except their Shepherd. The Shepherd knows his sheep and cares greatly for them. The reason sheep will only respond to their Shepherd is because they know the heart of the Shepherd.

Psalm 23 says,

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The Shepherd (GOD) leads us into green pastures, and the Shepherd leads us beside quiet waters.

When we place God high above all others and above all things, God promises us protection.

Salvation is the only thing that we can take with us from this life.

If we go back to the great commission, we need to ask ourselves, how do you know when it's time to make disciples?

Some would say it's anytime. Maybe you're thinking it's when someone sees your light and they ask you about what makes you different. Can it be when you're sitting in a bible class or during a worship service? If we think about the triangle ministry and use the "UP" "IN" and "OUT" concept, this could be the "OUT" part.

People are very afraid to just go up and start a conversation about Christ, and I get that. That's not what Christ is asking. Unless we trust God and desire to do this, we won't try to find ways to talk about Christ. We're great with receiving all the good things God gives us but when it comes

to making disciples, we would rather avoid that. We know we should use our voice to make disciples, but it's much easier to say we're doing this by saying, "When people see my light, they'll be attracted to it, and then they'll ask me what makes me different."

When was the last time this happened to you? How many times in your life has someone asked you what's different about you?

Could you imagine if that's all Jesus did? I can just picture Jesus sitting out on a mountain and every once in a while come into the city and wait for people to ask Him what's different about You.

Jesus didn't look like royalty, and He probably looked like He was poor. I don't think He looked any different than any other man.

Jesus used His voice. He told people to "Follow Me", and He taught people.

He traveled from town to town and spoke in the name of God. He preached heaven and promised salvation. He used parables and stood up to the leaders. Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

His death removed sin and gave Hope for those who believed. God's promise is that anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved.

The answer to the question about when to make disciples is in Luke 10:5-8:

⁵ "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. ⁸ "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you.

We need to identify if people are of peace. The Holy Spirit will know them, and we need to be open to developing a friendship with them. We need to be the one willing to step out in Faith. Jesus isn't asking us all to become missionaries and deal with all the people who reject us.

In Acts 2:46-47 we read,

⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying

the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The end of verse 47 is a promise and we must do the first part in order for Christ to prove His promise.

When Christ sent out the 72, after they found homes of peace and returned back to Jesus, this is what happened – Luke 10:17 says,

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

And verses 18-20 say,

¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

It took trust in Christ and their actions proved they could rejoice in knowing their names are written in heaven. Jesus knew that when the 72 went out, they were going to be met with opposition. He also told them when peace wasn't present the spirit would return to them.

Jesus told them when to leave. Jesus' first instruction was to find homes with peace.

We must understand that it never said that if peace doesn't come, give up and go home.

Jesus said if peace returns to them, leave and go somewhere else. All we have to do is start by finding who is a person of peace. Trusting God's promises in a way that brings us to action is what we're called to do.

If you've been putting off believing and being baptized for the forgiveness of sin, listen to your heart. Walk with Christ and surrender your life over to Him.

God wants to Shepherd you.

Let's pray