

Trust! The Security of Knowing.

(preached 11/15/20)

LAST WEEK:

- Greek for doubt means “to waiver between 2 opinions” and we quoted from James 1, who told us that being double minded means “we cannot expect to receive anything from God.”
- Hebrew for doubt means “prey, tear in pieces, eat, ravening” is compared to a wolf who attacks our faith, rends it apart, and eats it...if we let it.
- Doubt is like a false prophet who hands us a shovel and tries to convince us we should dig up a seed of faith and replace it with something else.
- We must stand on the Word of God!
- The Word of God is Jesus and the Bible is the written version of the promises and plans He’s made.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd and, when we choose to stand on His Word, He places Himself between us and the ravening wolf who wants to prey upon us!

TODAY: When I say the word “trust” what comes to your mind? How about if I use it in one of the following sentences:

- “Do you trust politicians?”
- “Please trust me.”
- “I need to trust in God more.”
- “I don’t trust too many people.”

HEBREW: **THE translation of the word trust is to flee from something dangerous and take refuge somewhere safe.**

- There’s a horrible rain and windstorm and you’re outdoors—you immediately run and get inside your car. You fled the danger of the storm and trusted in your car to give you shelter.
- A suspicious person is following you so you hurry to get into your house and lock the door. You fled potential harm and trusted in the sanctity of your home to keep you safe.
- People have mistreated and abused you over the years and now you run away from them in general, rarely letting anyone get close to you...but you feel protected and secure when you’re around _____.

Trust first implies we have things that we’re running from.

A PLACE OF REFUGE IS ANYTHING OR ANYONE THAT WE FEEL WE CAN RUN TO AND BE SAFE.

The question for all of us today is: in what or whom are we giving our trust to?

The right answer is God, but I'm looking for the honest answer. Ancient Israel would often try and find refuge in things and people other than the Lord

DEUTERONOMY 28. As I've said before, the Book of Deuteronomy is Moses last sermon before he dies. In chapter 28 he prophesies that the Hebrew people will grow, get wealthy, settle in, and become powerful. While this is good, he goes on to say that this prosperity will lead them to both complacency and pride—they'll credit themselves with getting where they are. They'll forget that it was God Who got them there and gave them wealth. He warns the Hebrew people that if they choose to fall away from God and His ways, that the Lord will send a foreign nation to invade them...***and that the invaders will be successful.*** Moses prophesies that, when this nation comes, the Hebrews will no longer be wanderers but will be settled into cities with high and fortified walls:

Deuteronomy 28:52 (NKJV)

⁵² They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.

BREACH THE WALLS. When the invading enemy comes, the Hebrew people will want to “flee” from this danger and take refuge in something...yet in this case, their trust is in themselves. They'll feel secure in their high and fortified walls to repel the enemy when, in fact, the enemy will breach the gates and do terrible things.

THOUGHT YOU COULD TRUST.... Isn't it the most terrible feeling when you thought could trust this person, that church, this company, this politician, or that system to protect you and they don't? You've fled to them before when some “danger” loomed and it worked...you were able to take refuge there. Then there's a failure.

- The person who promised to be there for you lets you down or passes away.
- The church that made you think you were safe wasn't safe anymore.
- The job you thought was secure long term suddenly lays you off or goes under.
- The politician you finally thought you could trust is exposed as corrupt.
- The system that's brought you security in the past changes and the security is gone.

Maybe you thought you could trust yourself: your own morality, work ethic, judgment, abilities, intellect, or wisdom? What happens when we fail ourselves?

It's a terrible thing when the enemy breaches the walls and there seems to be nowhere to run.

- Have you experienced things like this before?
- Have you become bitter, cynical, and even paranoid towards people, churches, systems, politicians, companies, or anything else?
- If you've failed yourself in any area, what does that do to your confidence and sense of security?
- Is bitterness, cynicism, lack of confidence, and paranoia a fruit of the flesh or the Spirit?
- ***If it's a fruit of the flesh then does it contain any true Godly wisdom that comes from above?***

UPHEAVAL. A lack of a place or person to flee to and feel safe brings upheaval, a loss of peace, and produces anxiety, stress, fear, and worry.

TRUST ISSUES. If we're experiencing these things on a consistent basis, then we have trust issues. ***We've been looking for peace in all the wrong places.***

QUESTION. I asked you a question in the beginning of the sermon: "*in what or whom do we place our trust*" and chances are you gave the right answer: God.

WREATH SEASON. 2020's been a hard year and it lived up to its name for me personally when wreath season started. Under normal circumstances I get stressed that my wreath orders won't get done in time. Every year it happens and the girls always reassure me that they'll work hard and complete the task and every year they do. I promise myself I won't worry next year and I do it anyway!

FEAR AND WORRY. 2020 decided it was time to assert itself, however. My one wreath maker who'd been with me since 2012 quit the first day and my second wreath maker got sick after a few days of work and had to stay home. I tried calling upon a former wreath maker from years ago who was off work, but at the last minute her doctor said "no!" Fear and worry rose up within me, worse than in previous years, because the circumstances were tougher this time around. How was I possibly going to get everything done?

GOD REASSURES. Even in the midst of all this, I could feel the palpable presence of God's Spirit in the Secret Place. I heard Him telling me everything was going to be OK...that the orders would be done. It was obvious that I was going to get back on the wreath machine myself...something I haven't done in years. I was afraid that I would be too slow and that the quality of my wreaths would be less than before.

LIGHT AT END. Yet as I sit and write this sermon right now, I'm actually beginning to believe God! Not only do the wreaths look good, but they are getting done. I was trusting that things this year would be just like last year, and the year before, etc. I was depending on the same people coming back, being able and willing to work the same hours, etc. I needed to rely on the Lord Jesus. When I finally started to, He ended up switching some people and circumstances around. I still needed and need (present tense) to partner with Him and do my end, but when my former reliance fell through all I had left was God.

JUST GOD! I think its more appropriate to say that all I ever had was God in the first place. At one time He provided this person and that circumstance...but at the present time He switched people and events around.

KING DAVID. GOLIATH'S BROTHERS. After David was King, Israel continued having trouble with the Philistines including giants. As a matter of fact, Goliath's brothers came around looking for revenge and David was actually removed from the battlefield, because he was feeling weak and faint. Because the Israeli army trusted in God, however, they were granted victory and not only overcame the Philistines but killed all of Goliaths brothers.

WROTE A PSALM. He was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the following psalm as a result. Listen to it now in light of the Hebrew translation of trust revealed today:

2 Samuel 22:1-51 (NKJV)

¹ Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

² And he said: "The LORD *is* my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

³ The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. ****EXHORT****

⁴ I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

⁵ "When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

⁶ The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.

⁷ In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry *entered* His ears. ****EXHORT****

⁸ "Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.

⁹ Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it.

¹⁰ He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet.

¹¹ He rode upon a cherub, and flew; And He was seen upon the wings of the wind.

¹² He made darkness canopies around Him, Dark waters *and* thick clouds of the skies.

¹³ From the brightness before Him Coals of fire were kindled.

¹⁴ "The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice.

¹⁵ He sent out arrows and scattered them; Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them.

¹⁶ Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered, At

the rebuke of the LORD, At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

¹⁷ "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters.

¹⁸ He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; For they were too strong for me.

¹⁹ They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support.

²⁰ He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

****EXHORT****

²¹ "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.

²² For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God.

²³ For all His judgments *were* before me; And *as for* His statutes, I did not depart from them.

²⁴ I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity.

²⁵ Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes.

²⁶ "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;

²⁷ With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.

²⁸ You will save the humble people; But Your eyes *are* on the haughty, *that* You may bring *them* down.

²⁹ "For You *are* my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.

³⁰ For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall.

³¹ *As for* God, His way *is* perfect; The word of the LORD *is* proven; He *is* a shield to all who trust in Him.

³² "For who *is* God, except the LORD? And who *is* a rock, except our God?

³³ God *is* my strength *and* power, And He makes my way perfect.

³⁴ He makes my feet like the *feet* of deer, And sets me on my high places.

³⁵ He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁶ "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great.

³⁷ You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip.

³⁸ "I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.

³⁹ And I have destroyed them and wounded them, So that they could not rise; They have fallen under my feet.

⁴⁰ For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me.

⁴¹ You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me.

****EXHORT****

⁴² They looked, but *there was* none to save; *Even* to the LORD, but He did not answer them.

⁴³ Then I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth; I trod them like dirt in the streets, *And* I spread them out.

⁴⁴ "You have also delivered me from the strivings of my people; You have kept me as the head

of the nations. A people I have not known shall serve me.

⁴⁵ The foreigners submit to me; As soon as they hear, they obey me.

⁴⁶ The foreigners fade away, And come frightened from their hideouts.

⁴⁷ "The LORD lives! Blessed *be* my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation!

⁴⁸ *It is* God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me;

⁴⁹ He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man.

⁵⁰ Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name.

⁵¹ "*He is* the tower of salvation to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore."

- When enemies came...enemies that even the mighty David said were too strong for him, he fled to God.
- When multiple giants showed up all at the same time, David knew his only refuge and shield was the Lord.
- It wasn't just physical enemies that showed up to attack David and Israel, it was the internal enemies of fear, despair, and hopeless odds.
- It was the spiritual enemies of the devil and his demons.

Who or what have we been running from?

Who are what are we running to?

WHATEVER OR WHOEVER WE RUN TO IS WHO WE PUT OUR TRUST IN.

Psalm 56:1-13 (ESV)

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me;

² my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly.

³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. ****EXHORT****

⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

⁵ All day long they injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil.

⁶ They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps, as they have waited for my life.

⁷ For their crime will they escape? In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

⁸ You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?

⁹ Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me.

¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise,

¹¹ in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?

¹² I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you.

¹³ For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

If we understand that God is strong tower that we run into, do we have a fuller revelation of Jesus John 17 prayer?

John 17:20-23 (ESV)

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The doors to the strong tower are always open!