

For His Glory and Our Well-Being

Part 2: It Depends on God (Not Us) [6/7/26]

COMMUNION & ALTAR CALL AFTER

Sermon #1: All Glory Belongs to God

- We glorify God because He deserves it and it's good for our mental well-being.
- It's not just "spiritual" but directly impacts every aspect of our lives, right down to eating and drinking.
- We reviewed the Hebrew people enslaved in Egypt, the 10 plagues, crossing the Red Sea, and the victory of God over Pharaoh.
- God intended to glorify HIS OWN NAME by defeating the 10 Egyptian gods.
- 40 years later when Hebrews enter promised land, news of 10 plagues bringing Egypt to its knees reached them...and they were afraid of Yahweh!
- Fast forward to Jesus: He glorified Father God not by overcoming Rome or the Pharisees, but by giving His own life on the cross for our sins and eternal life.
- Every country in the world knows His name—He's the most famous Person ever! Never had TV, radio, social media, YouTube, or monetization.
- There's a church in every country in the world!

TODAY we're going to *learn what it means to REST in Christ.*

QUESTIONS:

- *Do you consider yourself a person that, if you give your word on something, you keep it?*
- *What do you think of people who don't...who make a promise and break it?*

For those of you who claimed you would keep your word, **allow me to give you a scenario and I'm asking you to answer out loud please.**

You own a '57 Chevy and you've kept it in pristine condition, spending lots of money, time, and labor to do so. On your son's 10th birthday, you bring him into the garage, peel off the tarp, and say to him: *"I'm giving this to you on your 21st birthday."* In the next 11 years, however, your son falls off the wagon. A life of crime, bad company, and other foolish choices have led him to getting in trouble with the law and being irresponsible.

What's more is that he has a sense of entitlement. He finally turns 21 and remembers the promise you made him. He comes to you and demands you give him the car. You're 99% confident that, if you do so, he'll either wreck it or sell it for quick cash that he'll spend on booze and girls. *Do you keep your word and give him the car, yes or no?*

Here's how we can rest in God and slough off fear and anxiety: **knowing that if He's made a promise, He keeps it.** How?

Him keeping it depends completely on Him. His goodness, His patience, His endurance, His Love, His everything.

Let's go over the Exodus story one more time and on this go 'round we'll focus on the promise God made to the Hebrew people, their reaction, and the end result.

Before we do that, let's go all the way back to Jacob in Genesis and remember: **ALL 12 tribes of the Hebrew people came from him.**

[Gen 28:13-15 ESV] 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. ***The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.*** 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 ***Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.***"

- God makes a promise not just to Jacob, but all of his sons AND their descendants forever.
- God does so before Jacob has even had any kids.
- WHAT is the promise predicated on? In other words, what needs to be in place in order for God to keep His promise?

Back to the example of you promising your kid the '57 Chevy:

- WHY did you make that promise?
- Is you living up to your word based on your son's actions and behavior?
- If he's a good kid, you keep your promise and give him the car?
- If he's a bad apple, you change your mind and don't give it to him?
- ***OR is your promise rooted in YOU? Your love for your son?***

Jacob had many sons and one was named Joseph. Joseph ends up in Egypt, becomes the 2nd most powerful man there, and invites his parents and brothers to come live with him in Egypt b/c there's a famine in Israel. Jacob and sons migrate to Egypt and, as the years pass, have lots of kids, grandkids, great grandkids, etc. Joseph eventually passes away and along comes a Pharaoh who doesn't know or respect Joseph, and he enslaves the Hebrew people. 400 years later this happens:

[Exo 2:23-25 ESV] 23 During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. 24 And God heard their groaning, **and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.** 25 God saw the people of Israel-- and God knew.

God remembered what He promised to Jacob; that He would give them their own country Israel. That means they'll need to be freed from the current Pharaoh who likes them right where they are.

God tells Moses this:

[Exo 3:7-8 ESV] 7 Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and ***I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land,*** a land flowing with milk and honey...."

God promises to 1) free the Israelites from Egypt and 2) bring them to the PM.

- Will He keep His promise and why?
- ***Why*** will God keep His promise?
- What motivates Him to do so?

Does Him living up to His word depend upon the faith, righteousness, and appreciation of the Hebrew people, yes or no?

What if the people lose faith, act sinfully, or lack appreciation for what God has done for them?

- What if they accuse God or Moses of things, like trying to kill them?
- What if they start worshipping other gods?

Here's a list of what the people did, starting at the beginning:

- Elders of Israel accuse Moses of Pharaoh's impossible workload and death threats, telling him they hope God curses him (Exodus 5:19-21).
- All the people panic at the Red Sea, saying Moses brought them here to die, and that they should have stayed in Egypt (Exodus 14:10-12).
- Within days of parting of Red Sea and Pharaoh's defeat, people complain there's no water to drink (Exodus 15:24).
- People complain there's no meat to eat, and wish they were back in Egypt. Claim Moses brought them out to starve to death (Exodus 16:2-3).

- Disobeyed with manna, trying to store it and gather on the Sabbath—both of which God told them not to do (Exodus 16:19-20, 27-28).
- Complained about lack of water again and decided to test/tempt the Lord (Exodus 17:1-4).
- Got impatient while Moses was on mountain, created golden calf, and worshipped it (Exodus 32:1-6).

Make no mistake, *there were some consequences God meted out for some of these things...especially the last one.*

Nonetheless, *40 years later, they got there and were led by Moses' protégé Joshua:*

[Jos 1:1-6 ESV] 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, **into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.** 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, **just as I promised to Moses.** 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. 5 **No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.** Just as I was with Moses, **so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.** 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people **to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them."**

God got them there and anointed Joshua to take the PM back from their enemies. And they did. The defeated giants, the mighty city of Jericho, and retook the land piece by piece. How? Because of their faithfulness, obedience, righteous behavior, and always trusted God?

No... it was because God promised all of this...and He keeps His word despite how we behave.

I'm not preaching hyper-grace here. There were several well-known consequences to the Hebrew people during the Exodus. God didn't turn a blind eye to their sin.

For us: there will be consequences along the way when we disobey, make foolish choices, and sin...*but God will keep whatever promises He's made.* Keep in mind He did so under the OC which was vastly inferior to one we're in now, with Jesus.

Let's fast forward to Jesus now. What promises did Jesus make before He even showed up here in human form?

1 Peter 1:19-20 (NIV)

“But with the **precious blood** of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **He was chosen before the creation of the world**, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”

Revelation 13:8 (NIV)

“All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, **the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.**”

At the beginning of “time” God—Who knows all things including the “future”—**chose His Son Jesus to arrive on earth as the Son of Man to bleed and die** as the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus came to bring good news to both Jew and Gentile that He was the way, the truth, and the life and He offered eternal life to any who receive Him. **Look what He prophesied while He was here:**

Matthew 17:22-23 — “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.”

He prophesied this 4-5 times during His 3.5 year time in public ministry.

He also prophesied His ascension:

John 6:62 (NIV) “Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!”

He said this (in different ways) 7 times. Here’s the summary of what He promised to do:

- Beat sin at the Cross.
- Beat death at His resurrection.
- Beat the devil at His Ascension.

Those are massive, world shaking promises!!!

Did He keep His word? Did He live up to this promise?

Was His promise predicated on the obedience, faithfulness, holiness, and endurance of the Israeli people?

- Rejected in His hometown: “isn’t this the carpenter’s son?” (Matthew 13:53-58).
- Rejected in His hometown synagogue, starting a physically violent riot where they tried to murder Him (Luke 4:16-20).

- Scribes accused Him of blasphemy, Pharisees said He was demon possessed (Matt 9: 3, 11, 34).
- Pharisees plotted to assassinate Him (Matt 12:14)
- Sanhedrin plots to kill Him (John 11:45-53).
- Tried to have Him arrested (Matt 21:45-46)
- Crowd tries to stone Jesus to death (John 8:59).
- Tried to stone Him again (John 10:31-39).
- Many self-proclaimed “disciples” left Him (John 6:41-42, 60-66).
- Rejected by His biological brothers who ridiculed Him (John 7:5).
- Rejected Him even after performing all signs and wonders prophesied in Isaiah (John 12:37-43).
- People chooses Barabbas and shouted “crucify Him!” (Matt 26)
- False witnesses come at His trial and lie about Him (Matthew 25:59-62).

If Jesus’ motivation for keeping His promises depended on the people and religious authorities, then we’re all in big trouble.

What about His closest disciples, the ones He handpicked and spent lots of time with Him? *Surely they were faithful, righteous, and obedient and gave Jesus good reason to keep His word?*

- Caught in storm on Sea of Galilee, wake Jesus up, and accuse Him of letting them drown (Matthew 8:23-27).
- Peter sinks in water due to lack of faith (Matt 14:22-33)
- “We don’t have enough bread for crowds” [rebuked by Jesus for lack of faith] (Matt 16:5-12)
- Can’t cast demon out of boy. Jesus calls them “faithless and perverse” (Matthew 17:14-21).
- Peter denies that Jesus should go to cross and deny and Jesus calls him Satan (Matth 16:21-23)
- Disciples argue with each other as to who will be the greatest (Luke 9:46-48)
- James and John say “we want best seats in Kingdom” (Mark 10:35-45)
- Argued over who would be greatest again, at Last Supper, right after Jesus says He’s about to be betrayed (Luke 22:24-30)
- John & James (same 2 guys who want best seats) want to burn Samaritan people to a crisp (Luke 9:51-56).
- Peter denies Jesus 3x.
- Judas betrays
- Disciples flee at Jesus’ arrest, despite promising they would stick with Him.

If Jesus living up to His promise depends on the goodness and obedience of His closest disciples, we’re in a real pickle.

Jesus doing what He said He would depends completely on Him.

What has He promised us, the Church?

- “I will never leave or forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:17

“When the poor and needy search for water and there is none, and their tongues are parched from thirst, then I, the Lord, will answer them. I, the God of Israel, will never abandon them.”

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”

Matthew 28:20 (NIV) — Jesus’ words:

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Psalms 37:28

“For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.”

Psalms 94:14

“For the Lord will not reject his people; he will never forsake his inheritance.”

- “You are SEALED with the Holy Spirit until the Resurrection.”

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 4:30 (NIV)

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV)

“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, **guaranteeing** what is to come.”

- He’s coming back to make everything right.

Matthew 24:27

“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man”

Matthew 25:31

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.”

John 14:3

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Acts 1:11

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

I only covered 3 promises here: 1) He’ll never leave, 2) We’re sealed until the Resurrection, and 3) He’s coming back.

There are more promises He made, and ***He will keep His word on all of them!***

Him being faithful to these promises depends on HIM...not us.

Rest in this and glorify God!

Glorify Him in HIS goodness, HIS endurance, HIS patience with us, HIS love, His faithfulness, HIS _____.

- Glorify Him to others so they'll stop thinking it's about them!
- Glorify Him to yourself so that you and I will stop thinking its about us...and we'll REST in His _____.
- As we rest in Him keeping true to His word, anxiety and stress melt away way and are replaced by peace.
- Our relationship with Him is better!
- Our relationship with others is better!

COMMUNION & ALTAR CALL