



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Faithfulness in a Faithless World

Passage: Jeremiah 35:1-11

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: If you were pressed to compromise your convictions or the commitments you have made to God, would you have the courage to stand by those commitments and convictions? Tonight, we will read in the book of Jeremiah about a people who, when tested, stood by a commandment given and a commitment made by an ancestor over 250 years before they were even born. They provide an example for us who claim to be committed to Christ and His Word.

I. The History of the Rechabites

“And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot. And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So they made him ride in his chariot.” (2 Kings 10:15-16)

1. They were not to drink wine.

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” (Proverbs 20:1)

We should never allow ourselves to voluntarily entangle ourselves with the influences of this world—the things that influence our thoughts, speech, and behavior.



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Romans 12:2 says we are to "... be not conformed to this world, but be transformed"

2. They were not to build houses.

They were not to see this world as their home.

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." (Hebrews 11:13-16)

Eternity is our home; we are only here temporarily.

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3:2)

3. They were not to sow seed or plant vineyards.

This again speaks of putting down roots—expecting to remain somewhere permanently, or at least for a long time—seeking reward for earthly labor.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:13-14)

4. They were to live as nomads in tents.



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They were to see their lives as a journey. There's no home for us this side of heaven.

II. The Trial of the Rechabites

Jeremiah not only asked the Rechabites whether they would drink any wine, but he set pots full of wine before them, along cups to drink from. He applied as much pressure as he possibly could to test the strength of their commitment.

When the Rechabites were tested by the Lord and Jeremiah to violate their commitment and separation, they refused to yield, recognizing the test for what it was; for they knew in their hearts and minds that God would not ask such a thing of them.

"Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them; but this people hath not hearkened unto me:." (Jeremiah 35:16)

III. The Lessons to Be Learned From the Rechabites

1. Choice determines character.
 - a. Daniel – *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." (Daniel 1:8)*
 - b. Moses – *"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." (Hebrews 11:24-26)*
2. Faithfulness will be rewarded.

"God reserves the very best for those who leave the choice with Him." – Andrew Murray



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“And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you: Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever.” (Jeremiah 35:18-19)

Conclusion: May we, like the Rechabites, be found faithful—not because it is easy, popular, or convenient, but because we have purposed in our hearts to honor the commitments we have made before God. In a world filled with compromise, may our lives reflect the unwavering conviction of those who listen closely for the Master’s voice and respond in obedience, no matter the cost. Let us leave behind a legacy of faithfulness, standing firm in a culture that constantly tests our resolve, and may it be said of us, as it was of Jonadab’s descendants, that we kept what was committed to us.



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