

Your Words: Words of Hope – 5/29/16

This series has been really good, hasn't it. I know God has shown me some areas of my words that need to be adjusted and reflect His words. Today I want us to finish this series grabbing hold of words of hope from Jesus. That in the midst of failure and troubles, there is hope.

God is a God of hope and throughout scripture we see people in troubling times, in the midst of failure and yet hope remains.

It's safe to say that we live in troubling times. And if you can easily get sucked into focusing on all that is going wrong in the world. I want us to instead, receive the words of God, words of hope in the midst of trouble, in the midst of failure, in the midst of uncertainty.

Throughout much of scripture people experienced failure and troubles. Sometimes failure is a result of their decisions, sometimes it's because of someone else's decisions. But scripture tells us of a God who is bigger than our failures, who is more powerful, loving, compassionate.

From the first people, Adam and Eve, when they failed God, failure and troubles have been part of this broken world.

Today I want us to look at a passage, a conversation between Jesus and Peter and the disciples. Peter was no stranger to failure. His words often got him in trouble. Peter would often over react with his words.

None of us in here have ever done that have we?

There was the time when Jesus was telling the disciples about his death and Peter took Jesus aside and began rebuking Him. In case you were wondering, rebuking Jesus doesn't really work.

The passage today takes place in John 13

The Last Supper, the Upper room.

John 13:36-38

Simon Peter said to Him, Lord where are you going? Jesus answered, 'Where I go, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow later.' Peter said to Jesus, Lord, why can I not follow you right now? I will lay down my life for You.' Jesus answered, 'Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, Truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.'

Just because the chapter ended, doesn't mean the conversation ended. This moment, this tension punctuated by the chapter break. But it is this next 3 verses that Jesus, knowing Peter's failures that lay ahead, gives Peter words of hope to hold on to.

Don't you and I need words of hope to hold onto? A friend of mine says "it's not if something will happen in this life but when"

John 14: 1-3

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God. Believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

1. Do not be troubled

Troubled – Inward commotion. Riot. What is troubling your heart? Have you made some decisions in the past that have created an internal riot in you? Maybe it was something that happened years ago. Maybe you are in the middle of it right now.

Story of the disciples in the storm and Jesus asleep.

Storms happen in this world, and in the midst of the storm Jesus says do not let your heart be troubled.

- Proverbs 4:23

Above all else guard your heart, for from it everything else flows.

2 Corinthians 2:7-8;11

So on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan.

Satan seeks to kill, steal and destroy and if he can get to your heart and create a riot internally he can begin imprisoning you. Satan wants you to be swallowed up by sorrow, by guilt and shame. Satan has schemes to speak lies to you when you are most vulnerable. In those moments of failure, in the times of trouble, his voice sounds like this, “your not good enough for God. God is tired of you. God doesn’t love you. God has forgotten about you.”

He doesn’t want you to know God’s truth for you in the midst of failure, in the mist of troubles. In the midst of the storm he wants you to panic and jump overboard.

A troubled heart is not God’s will for you.

God wants to give peace and hope, Satan wants to give fear and despair. Satan wants you to live in shame and guilt, God gives freedom.

He gives Peter, Jesus gives you and I an imperative statement. This is a command for us to keep. If it’s a command to keep. We have some responsibility.

And that command is easy when things are easy. When things are going well, its easy to be not troubled. The question is how can you and I be at peace in the midst of the storm?

God’s peace is accessible to us.

Jesus gives you and I the recipe to keeping this command. Here comes the HOW TO. Jesus gives us a how to.

2. Keep believing in God; the Father, the Son and the Spirit.

When the world is crashing in, keep believing. When your failure seems to be sinking you, keep believing.

Often, we are tempted to do the exact opposite. We experience failure and we begin to doubt. We run from God thinking, He doesn't want to see us now, he wants to punish us. It's the same thing Adam and Eve did in the garden. But Jesus tells you and I, keep believing in Him.

Growing Belief

Stand Strong. Stand Firm in your faith.

- Two actions of belief to keep your heart from being troubled.

First - Prayer.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

When you put your faith in the Prince of Peace, His rules in your heart and nothing can take that peace away because He has overcome the world.

When Paul was writing this passage, he was using language that would be used to throw an anchor overboard and the key is that we don't try to hold on but we release it.

Story - Miscarriage (Is this too heavy)

Before Annabelle, Corie and I experienced a miscarriage. We had just decided to start a family and Corie got pregnant fairly quick. So the miscarriage happens and as a guy who wants to fix things I thought, we will get pregnant again in another month or two. Months and months went by. I remember laying my head down on the pillow at night and being broken, having inner turmoil toward God because of this. I would roll away from Corie and tears would And while the miscarriage was difficult at first,

What relief I felt after I gave this to God. It was as though peace washed over me. His peace guards our heart and mind.

Second - Take every thought captive.

2 Corinthians 10:5

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

IN the midst of the storm, when Satan begins his schemes, you hear those lies we must take them captive and call them what they are. Those are lies and I do not believe that. God loves me and will never stop loving me. My hope and faith is in him, not in myself.

Every thought is submitted under the Truth. Does this thought line up with Jesus? Does these words line up with God's Word? Does this word give life or death? Does this word give peace in Christ or bring doubt in Christ?

Hold on to God, believe in him when the entire world seems to be collapse. Sometimes we don't know how things are going to turn out but we still believe. Some of you are in the middle of a storm right now, believe in Him who has overcome the world.

***Bonheoffer's story**

Ephesians 6:10 "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

The last thing that Jesus says to Peter is God no matter what Peter, I will never leave you nor forsake you.

3. I wont leave you.

John 14:2-3

In my Fathers house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

John 14:23

If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our abode with him. (Home/dwelling place.)

Jesus receives you. Failure and troubles are not rejection. Jesus receives you to Himself.

Jesus presence remains with you. Where I am, there you may be also. Jesus ascended to heaven so that His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, could dwell in every single believer for all time. That you and I, have His Spirit living in us, empowering us, comforting us, praying for us.

Deuteronomy 31:6 –I will never leave you nor forsake you.

The Gospel of Matthew

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, not things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.

Are you convinced of Gods steadfast love for you?

God is with you in the midst of failure, in the midst of storms, challenges. Just because you don't feel warm and fuzzy doesn't mean He has left.

Do not be troubled, Believe in God and Also in Me. I go to prepare a place for you and if I go I will come back for you and receive you to myself that where I am, there you may be also.

Closing

Peter would go on to be the leader of the early church. After Jesus' death and resurrection he reaffirmed Peter as the leader. He still had a plan and purpose, he still received Him and filled him with the Holy Spirit. He would end up laying down his life for Christ.

I want to close by asking you a couple of questions? Do you have peace in the midst of the storm? When the sky is falling, whose voice are you listening to? Where do you search for answers?

If you have never trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior would you do that today? If there is a tugging on the inside, that is God drawing you to himself. If that's you, would you raise your hand right now so I can pray for you.

If you are in the midst of storm right now. It doesn't matter if you caused it or if it happened to you, but if you are in the midst of a storm and need a word of hope would you come to the altar and receive? Our prayer team will be waiting up here to pray with you. Don't go through the storm alone. Have others pray for you.

In the midst of failures, in the midst of troubles there is hope and Hope has name. Peace has a name. That name is Jesus.

God loves you, He has a plan for you and He is a place for you. He isn't giving up on you.

There is a room for you. Folks, this earth isn't our home. Its not our final stop. A lifetime on this earth is but a speck of sand on the shore of eternity. He is building a room designed for you.

When Annabelle was about to be born I started on the nursery. I wanted her to have a room, designed for her, prepared for her for when she would arrive. If we prepare rooms for our kids, don't you think our heavenly Father has prepared a pretty awesome room for you?