

Sermon Notes

Week of Sunday, August 30, 2015

Trust & Obey - Trust Sandwich

Psalm 78:5-22 (ESV)

Pastor - Mark Saunders



A. We tend to trust in ourselves and disobey God.

What must be in place if we want to fully trust in God?

- 1) Belief in His sovereignty
- 2) Confidence in His wisdom
- 3) Acceptance of His love

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them. In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light. He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert. They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved. They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the wilderness? He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?" Therefore, when the Lord heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power. (Psalm 78:5-22 ESV)

B. We tend to think we are in control.

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15 ESV)

- 1) We tend to think we are in control.
- 1) We can think God is good but not in control.
- 2) We can even think God is in control but not good.

C. God is in control of everything.

- 1) God is in control and working things together for our good.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:28-29 ESV)

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2) God is in control in the good things that come our way. (Esther 6 ESV)

3) God is in control in the hard things that come our way.

So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. (Genesis 45:8 ESV)

I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things. (Isaiah 45:7 ESV)

37 Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? 38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come? (Lamentations 3:37-38 ESV)

B. God Knows Everything

“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.’ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 45:2-6 ESV)

C. God loves perfectly

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:7-11 ESV)

Life Group Notes
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Getting Started

1. What was said in this week's sermon that stood out to you?
2. When have you ever taken control of a situation in your life that should have been surrendered to God? What was the outcome?
3. Read Psalm 78:5-22. What does it mean for you to trust God with your circumstances? What would it take for you to trust Him more?
4. What is the correlation between trusting God with your life, remembering what God has done for you, and your willingness to obey His commands? Which of these areas present a particular problem for you?

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5. Read Hebrews 12:1-11. Do you enjoy discipline? Explain your answer.

6. How do you think the discipline of the Lord produces holiness in you? Are you willing to submit your life and choices to God for His merciful discipline? What might that look like?

7. Make a list of those things you think God might want you to throw off in order to be more fully submitted to Him. Pray each day this week for strength to keep your commitment of deeper surrender.

8. Read Psalm 139. Pray through all the truths you see in this passage that help you know God is loving and trustworthy. Pray verses 23-24 each day this week, and journal what you hear from God.