

The Promises of God

Title – Never Will I Leave You

Prayer

Purpose/Review

We are going to continue to explore some promises of God...

Last week we took an in depth look at Romans 8:28

Romans 8

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

We know... because we know God...

And since we know God... we can trust in His promises...

What is a promise...?

The American Heritage Dictionary

Promise – a declaration assuring that one will or will not do something; a vow.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

Promise - a declaration, written or verbal, made by one person to another, which binds the person who makes it, either in honor, conscience or law, to do or forbear a certain act specified; a declaration which gives to the person to whom it is made, a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of the act.

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word translated as promise has a very broad definition...

Promise – to speak; to declare; to be spoken; to promise

In the New Testament the Greek word translated as promise is richer still...

Promise (NT)- is a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified. It is also a legally binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act.

Why We Can't Keep Our Promises Psychology Today

Keeping promises is considered a measure of one's worth—we prize being “as good as our word.” Yet each of us has struggled to keep some of our promises, often feeling like failures when we've been unable to do so.

Promises require us to declare a conscious objective. But people have so many out-of-awareness thoughts and feelings, we may not “know” of our unconscious ambivalence about a stated commitment.

There are a number of commonly understood reasons promises are broken, including that our feelings, capacity, or circumstances have changed over time.

NOTE-

Keeping promises is considered a measure of one's worth
We prize being as good as our word

Our feelings or our capacity or our circumstances may change over time
Therefore... sometimes we simply cannot keep a promise

Yeah... I know what I said... I know what I promised... but things have changed

What if we make a promise to someone... What is our word worth?

Or let's say you make a promise... and you shake hands on that promise

What is a handshake worth?

EXAMPLE -

The legal case is *Texaco, Inc. v. Pennzoil Co.*, a landmark 1985 lawsuit where a Texas jury awarded \$10.53 billion to Pennzoil after finding that Texaco intentionally interfered with a binding contract. The contract was established through a handshake agreement.

The central legal question was whether a handshake and verbal promises (one's word) constituted an enforceable contract, it became a ruling that fundamentally changed corporate negotiation practices.

How much was that handshake worth... \$10.53 Billion...

Question-

What is one's word worth...?

Question-

What about God...

Can God change His mind if circumstances change...?

Numbers 23

19 God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good

Do you truly believe that God WILL make good on His promises...?

Listen to what Paul tells the Corinthian Christians about God's promises...

2 Corinthians 1 NIV

20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are Yes in Christ. And so through Him the Amen is spoken by us to the glory of God.

NOTE-

Paul is talking about the numerous promises
Found throughout the Old Testament
And in what would become the New Testament

All of God's promises find their fulfillment and affirmation in Jesus
Who is the embodiment of God's faithfulness

And so because of God's faithfulness in keeping His promises

Amen is spoken by us to the glory of God

Amen... I believe

NOTE-

You will hear me often say Amen three times in a row
Three times to emphasize that I firmly believe the bible truth that I had just recited

So how does that work...

How do we live day to day making the most of a promise of God...?

Let us unpack our lesson for this morning...

SERMON TITLE – Never Will I Leave You

A promise from God that is given to us throughout the bible...

Reading

Hebrews 13:5-6

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, so that we can confidently say, The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?

Doctrinal

SIDE NOTE-

This verse was one of the first verse that I memorized as a new Christian
It is still one of my favorite verses
And in 17 years as a pastor... I have never taught on it...

NOTE-

At first this reading may appear a bit confusing
Why does God combine our view of money
With the faithfulness of God

Scripture is asking us...

Do we place our trust in the world and all that it has promised us...

Or do we place our trust in God and all that He has promised us...

So let's take this verse apart to see that it is not simply a promise...

But a promise with multiple dimensions...

Application

Never Will I Leave You

1) God's promised presence

Hebrews 13:5-6

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**, so that we can confidently say, The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?

The writer of Hebrews is reminding us of a promise that God made to Joshua...

Joshua 1

5 No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

The Lord did just promise once... He repeated the promise a second time...

Joshua 1

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

NOTE-

40 years earlier the young Hebrew nation stood at the exact same spot

40 years earlier the returning spies told them that they could not conquer the land

Only Joshua and Caleb believed that they could conquer the land

Why....? Because the Lord was with them

God reminded Joshua of his faithfulness so long ago

And that He would continue to be with Joshua and his people

NOTE-

God was reminding Caleb that even though the people did not believe God's promise God remained with them for those 40 years

He would always be with them... He would never forsake them
He would never abandon them and leave them helpless

Nothing would separate them...

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Romans 8:35-39

Paul reminds us of this promise of God

Romans 8

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

DROP DOWN TO Verse 37**Romans 8**

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 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 our Lord.

One of the last things Jesus said... was making the same promise

Matthew 28 NIV

20b... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Our second bullet point...

Never Will I Leave You

1) God's promised presence

2) The Lord is my Helper

Hebrews 13:5-6

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, so that we can confidently say, **The Lord is my Helper**, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?

Helper – One who runs to my cry

The Lord is my Helper... let that sink in for a moment...

Psalm 121

1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;

From where shall my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

And because the Creator of the universe is my helper...

And because the Creator of the universe is always with me...

No schemes of man can ruin us...

Our third bullet point

Never Will I Leave You

1) God's promised presence

2) The Lord is my Helper

3) Man Cannot ruin us

Again the writer of Hebrews calls upon a past promise from God...

Psalm 118

6 The Lord is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?

NOTE-

Man can ruin me financially...

Man can tarnish my reputation...

Man can even kill me...

But nothing... can ruin me in God's eyes...

Hebrews 13:5-6

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, so that we can confidently say, The Lord is my Helper, **I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?**

Our fourth bullet point...

Never Will I Leave You

- 1) God's promised presence
- 2) The Lord is my Helper
- 3) Man can't ruin us
- 4) I won't fear**

That's certainly easier to say the do...

Fear takes on many faces...

Anxiety... worry... doubt...

Yet... because the Lord is my helper... I will not be afraid...

God gave the Jewish people the same promise as our reading...

Through the prophet Isaiah...

Isaiah 41

10 Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

In other words... place your trust in God...

For He will strengthen us... He will provide for us...

Our fifth bullet point...

Never Will I Leave You

- 1) God's promised presence
- 2) The Lord is my Helper
- 3) Man can't ruin us
- 4) I won't fear
- 5) We are freed from the loving of money (as our security)**

Hebrews 13:5-6

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, so that we can confidently say, The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?

Keep yourself free from the love of money...

Be content with what you have...

Is the bible teaching us not to be successful...?

No... there is nothing wrong with wanting to better yourself...

So that you can improve your worth and be compensated by higher pay...

God is asking you... where does money stand in your life...

Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes...

Ecclesiastes 5

10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money

Where does money stand between you and God...

Have you learned to trust God and be content with what you have today...

STORY-

A Puritan from New England was having trouble financially

Life's circumstances had brought him into poverty

He sat down for his evening meal and found that he had only a little bread and some water.

His response was to exclaim, "What? All this and Jesus Christ, too!"

Can I glorify God in my poverty...?

There is a very simple question to ask yourself to find your answer...

Have I been faithful in giving to the Lord regardless of my finances...

Have I been faithful in the way I handle money and my relationship with God...

Have I learned to trust God whether in poverty or in riches...?

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Philippians 4:12-13

Philippians 4

12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Which brings us to our final bullet point...

Never Will I Leave You

- 1) God's promised presence
- 2) The Lord is my Helper
- 3) Man can't ruin us
- 4) I won't fear
- 5) We are freed from the loving of money (as our security)

6) I Enjoy Contentment

Hebrews 13:5-6

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, so that we can confidently say, The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?

Contentment is not simply about settling for what we have, but trusting in what God has said. Both anxiety and greed rise in our hearts as God's words fall. The seed of unnecessary fear in the heart of a Christian is forgetfulness — an inability to remember and trust what the God of the universe has said and done..... **Marshall Segal**

Listen to what we read towards the end of Joshua...

Joshua 21

45 Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.

When Joshua stared out into impossible circumstances and enormous opposition,

God said to him... I will not leave you or forsake you. . . . Be strong and courageous.

You will never be alone. No matter how desperate and alone you feel

No matter how much opposition you face

No matter how precarious your circumstances become

For God has said... I will be with you.

His presence can calm any fear

That is if we don't forget that He's there, that He's near, That He's attentive

Trust and believe in the promises of God...

CLOSE