

Learning to Trust

John 14:1-6

Preface

Pam and I spent a portion of this past week on a short vacation. We went with Barry and Donna to their cabin in North Georgia. Barry had these huge bumblebees flying around the front of his cabin. They were the type that bore holes into the wood siding and fascia so he was quite bothered by them. We got the fly-swatter out and started trying to kill them. At first I would just swat at them and they would in turn attack me. I killed a few out of self defense.

Soon we learned that the key was to stand very still and they would eventually come right up to you. Just as we would gain their trust, “boom” we would swat them out of the air.

Sometimes in life we feel like those bumblebees. Just when we begin to trust in someone or something, “boom” we are swatted down with disappointment.

It isn't easy to trust people these days. With so much crime and deception, we don't know who to trust anymore.

But there is one in whom you can place all of your trust. One man walked this earth with astounding supernatural powers. He is Jesus Christ the son of God, and He lives today.

Even today Jesus calls men and women to experience His life changing powers. He has the power to heal your broken homes, your broken lives and your broken hearts.

Listen carefully to our text as Jesus calls upon us to trust Him for the spiritual healing and power that comes from trusting Him.

Scripture - Read

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God”; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms (dwelling places); if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And 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. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:1-6 NIV

Introduction

From his birth to his resurrection, Jesus did many supernatural amazing things during his time on earth.

“Lazarus come forth!” he spoke and up from the grave came Lazarus.

In Galilee a royal official came to Jesus and asked him to come quickly down to Capernaum as his son was dying. Jesus responded, “You may go, your son lives” and his son lived.

Jesus healed the sick and made the blind to see again. He touched the untouchables and restored their physical health. More importantly, He gave people hope and spiritual fulfillment.

Jesus gave people reason and purpose for living.

Imagine the thrust in the heart of the woman caught in adultery. One moment she was facing death and the next she hears Jesus say, “Where are your accusers? Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.”

Even today, Jesus heals broken lives and hearts. Even today Jesus wants to restore our brokenness and give us reason and purpose for living. Jesus desires to give each and every one of us forgiveness and spiritual fulfillment.

What must we do to receive this supernatural power from our Lord? The answer is We Must Learn to Trust!

Jesus calls upon us to us to trust in Him in 3 areas.

Content

1. Trust In My Presence

Life is not always easy. Life is often hard and challenging. Sometimes we find ourselves in a whirlwind over things out of our control. Other times we find ourselves in a mess that we created all on our own.

We often make our own messes with our assumptions, decisions and actions. We sometimes ignore God's teachings and find ourselves involved in a struggles of our own doing.

On the other hand, sometimes life just deals us an unfair and difficult hand. Whatever struggles you face today, Jesus calls you

to trust in His presence. With all of life's sharp edges and cliffs, Jesus tells us not to be troubled, but to trust in His presence.

Illus: We can be coasting through life and one phone call can change everything. Perhaps someone we love has been in an accident. Perhaps it is a call from the doctor's office about some tests. It could be changes in our employment or income. Life as we know it can change in an instant. **Jesus says trust in my presence.**

When we come to the 14th chapter of John, the disciples are feeling overwhelmed. They have been on an emotional roller-coaster. Their week had begun with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with people waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna to the King!"

But the enthusiasm quickly turned to disappointment as the people realized Jesus didn't come to be crowned an earthly king. Jesus was being betrayed and He knew His disciples needed encouragement.

Jesus said to them; *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God"; trust also in me."*

Jesus says the same to you and me today. If your heart is burdened, if you are struggling, the peace you so desperately need can be found in the presence of Jesus.

You need to know that Christ is with you in all you do and in all your struggles. Even when you are not living for Him, he is eager to comfort you and restore your relationship with Him.

One of the most awesome feelings is when you are not serving God and you are not walking with him and you begin to feel His conviction calling you home. That is His presence! What a joy to know the King is present in your life even when you don't deserve His presence.

Whatever you are facing today, trust in the presence of your savior. Know that He is with you, walking with you and comforting you in spite of your pain.

Jesus promised us, *"Lo I am with you always. I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Trust in His presence.

2. Trust In My Promises

Politicians make promises year after year. Every election cycle we hear about term limits and pork spending and yet nothing is ever done about it. You cannot count on the promises of politicians.

Satan makes promises. Satan always promises the best but delivers the worst. Satan promises honor and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasures and pays with pain; he promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death. You cannot afford to trust in the promises of Satan.

God on the other hand always delivers on His promises and then some. Notice how Jesus says in verse 2, *"If it were not so, I would have told you."* In other words, you can bank on what I tell you.

We are promised that we are forgiven when we believe and accept the gift of salvation. We are promised forgiveness; yet we struggle to trust that forgiveness and choose to wallow in our guilt.

We are promised abundant life if we will live for Him; yet we walk down our own paths and make the wrong things lord of our life.

We are promised eternal life, a place to go home when our time is done and yet we live as though this is our home.

Jesus describes heaven as His father's house and He promises he goes to prepare that place for us as well.

Illus: I have conducted the funerals of many men and women who were completely at peace and ready to leave this world to go home. Others fight death and hang on to this world with everything they have for they do not trust in the promises of Jesus.

The King James translation uses the word "mansions" in verse 2. However, the correct translation is dwelling places which could be rooms, houses, tents or mansions. It doesn't matter. The important point is we will be home and there will be plenty of room.

You and I can absolutely 100% count on the promises of our Lord.

Trust in His promises.

3. Trust In My Person

Most importantly, we must trust in His person. We must trust with everything within us in the person of Jesus Christ.

We must trust that He is the one and only son of the one and only God; creator of the universe. We must trust that He came to earth to bear our sins on the cross and was resurrected from the grave that we might have victory.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

Through the person of Jesus Christ, we have forgiveness, fulfillment, joy, purpose, peace, meaning, freedom, justification, new life and eternal life.

Through Jesus Christ we become a child of the King. We share in the inheritance of the Heavenly Father.

Illus: I feel compelled to emphasize this point by sharing my own personal experience. When I was 5 years old my father left my mother, myself and my 2 year old sister. In 1962 my mother was forced to raise 2 children on her own. She worked as a checkout clerk in a grocery store to raise us.

Within a couple of years my mother married my first step father. I was happy to make Myron my new daddy as I longed for a father figure in my life.

It wasn't long until my new father became violent towards each one of us. When I would least expect it, Myron would reach across the small kitchen table like lightning and backhand me in the mouth, often knocking me completely out of the chair and on to the floor. He would then shout, "I told you not to smack!" My spirit became crushed.

To this day I can vividly remember the scene in our front yard. Myron was straddled across my mother's chest with her on the ground. He had her by the hair and was violently banging her head against the ground. My sisters and I were hysterical and I struggled to pull him off.

Myron was a highway patrolman who worked the night shift. One night while he was at work, we slipped out of the house carrying some bags and walked to his sister's house. His sympathetic sister took us to the bus station and paid for tickets for us to travel to an aunt's home in Texas and escape Myron's tyranny. These experiences are permanently etched in my memory.

I hated Myron Barnes. I vowed for years that one day I would grow big and strong and I would return to Myron and beat the daylight out of him.

Later when I was in the 6th grade, my real father came back on the scene. We were living in low-rent government housing in Pascagoula, MS when he came to stay with us for a few weeks.

I was so excited. I badgered my mother about getting back with my father. I dreamed of being a real family and having that father I so longed for. On the way home from school I always walked by a pawn shop and admired a set of drums in the window. I dreamed of learning how to play the drums. My father generously promised me that one day soon he would buy me that set of drums.

One afternoon we came home to realize my father had packed up and left again. I was devastated that my dreams of a real family were once again crushed. We did not have air conditioning and that night as we started to go to bed I went to get the box fan and place it in the hall as we did every night. It was nowhere to be found. We could not figure out what had happened to our blue box fan.

The next day as I peered in the window of the pawn shop to take another look at the drum set, I had some hidden hope that my father might still be in town and coming home. To my surprise, I spotted our box fan sitting in the storefront. I marched in and began to question the owner about the fan. My father had pawned it for \$2.00 before leaving town.

That day I vowed I would never again call anyone "father."

There is more to my story including a 2nd and 3rd step father but I will spare you the details and get to the important ending and the point of all of this personal laundry.

In the 9th grade in Grand Bay Alabama, a young lady invited me to a revival at the local Baptist church. For the first time, I heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. I heard about who He was, what He had done for me and how much He loved me.

God's word tells us that if we will believe in our heart that Jesus Christ is the son of God and confess with our tongue that He is Lord, we will be saved. That night at Friendship Baptist Church, I believed and I confessed that Jesus Christ was the son of God and I made Him Lord of my life.

That night I started a new journey, no a new life that put all of the ugly past behind me and gave me a fresh start as a new person in Christ.

Because I trusted in the person of Christ, who he is, **I went from a fatherless boy to a child of the king.**

I have gone from a boy with hate and anger to one who has learned to forgive and no longer desires revenge. I have gone from a kid with no hope to a man with everything I could have hoped for.

God gave me a family of believers in Friendship Baptist Church who to this day love and pray for me.

God gave me a new a Christian mother who loves and lives for Him and prays for me, my family and this church every night.

God gave me a wonderful wife and a family of my own, a real family where we love one another. We have our faults and problems for sure. But we are a real loving family still together.

God made me a father and showed me how to be a father. Again, far from a perfect father but a great father in contrast to the earthly men I once called father.

And, though I vowed to never call anyone else father again, since that night in the 9th grade I have called God, the king of kings my father every day of my life. I can speak to him anytime I want and I have the assurance that he is watching over me all the time.

And here I stand before you today, your Pastor with a growing church family. Look what God has given me. Oh my how God has turned my life around to His glory.

Because I trusted in the person of Jesus Christ!

I implore you to trust in the Person of Jesus Christ. Make Him Lord of your life today.

Conclusion

This week one of the men in our church asked me what I was preaching on this Sunday. I told him the scripture reference and the title of the sermon "Learning to Trust in Jesus." He immediately responded with "That's not always easy to do."

I pondered that statement all weekend for I know it is a true statement. It is not always easy to trust in Jesus for life's solutions. Even though I am a Pastor, I too find it difficult. Why is that?

The answer is found in our childhood. Basically, we want things our way and we want them now. We want immediate answers and we want the answer to be exactly what we want to hear. With Jesus we know He will answer in His timing and in the manner that is best for us.

Think about when you were a child for a moment. The worse answer you could get from a parent was "I'll think about it" or "Maybe later." Those were not the answers you wanted to hear. You wanted to hear "Yes!" and you wanted to hear it right then.

We really haven't changed all that much. That is how we are with God. We still want a certain answer and we want it now. We aren't into waiting.

We must learn to trust completely in Jesus. We must trust His timing and His resolution.

If you will trust in the Presence, Promises and Person of Jesus Christ, you can embark on a whole new life.

But you must trust.