

St Martins C3 – October 27, 2024

Trust in God – Trust and Obey

Sermon Summary:

We are embarking on a series called Trust and Obey. For us to live in obedience to what God says, we need to choose to trust His leading day by day, moment by moment.

The question for each of this morning is this: do we trust that God has what is best for us, and will we choose to obey?

Dormant Trust

Read Luke 5:1-3

Simon Peter is distant and disengaged from Jesus. He doesn't seek Jesus out or look to spend time in His presence, let alone trust in Him. His trust in God is showing no signs of activity; it is dormant.

Many, even Christians, have a dormant, inactive trust in Jesus. They stand at a distance from him, doing their own thing.

Is your life showing an active trust in Jesus, or have you become distant or disengaged from his purposes?

Doubtful Trust

Read Luke 5:4-5

Simon doubts that doing what Jesus says will have any effect. Many struggle with the same feeling at times. They hear

what Jesus is saying in Scripture or what He is leading through His Spirit, but they are unsure if they do what he asks and whether it will turn out for their good.

Read Hebrews 11:6

Faith believes that God is actively working for our good. You know you don't believe this is true if you start looking for other things to satisfy you. Full trust in God believes that no matter what we go through, God is trustworthy.

3 – Dedicated Faith

Jesus asks Simon to let down his net in the deeper waters, and he does.

Read Luke 5:6-11

Simon trusted in Jesus enough to fish again, and he saw an amazing miracle. It impacted him so powerfully he was disturbed. He was completely undone.

To trust in God means we forsake our own way of doing life and embrace His way of doing life.

Read Proverbs 3:5-7

Let us have the kind of dedicated, devoted, and disciplined faith that shows we trust God more than any other thing. So, here is the challenge of this series. We want to encourage you to Trust and Obey. It begins by deciding that God has what is best for us and choosing to seek Him for it.

Connect Group Material:

Key Point

We should trust that God has what is best for us.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

How does someone's trust in God become dormant?

Have you ever stopped actively trusting in Jesus? What happened?

How do you reignite dormant faith?

Why do you think faith necessitates believing God rewards those who earnestly seek Him?

What are the things that cause you to doubt God's goodness?

What are other doubts that you struggle with? How can we help you with them?

Simon's faith caused Him to leave everything and follow Jesus. How can you show more trust in Jesus this week?

Consider Romans 8:28 in context and what it might mean for what you are going through right now.

Monday Devotion: God's Goodness

Read Psalm 119:40

This week, we will spend time in the Psalms looking at God's goodness as we seek to trust Him. But what do we mean by the word "good."

How does that Pizza taste? Good

How was your day? Good

You have just won a gold medal how do you feel? I feel good.

We use this word to cover so many different things. It can be everything from the best feeling ever to a general sense of nothing being particularly bad.

The word here for good is a different word. He is moral and righteous. In him is light. What do we mean when we say God is good? We mean that he is of the highest character and that everything he does, every thought, every purpose is right. All of the time. And that this righteousness is a life source for us.

I have seen the goodness that comes from knowing a righteous God and following him. It is a life that does turn out for your good. I would not live my life any other way.

The Psalmists declare again and again the goodness of God.

Tuesday Devotion: What “Good” Really Means

Read Psalm 34:8

My shortlist was 16 scriptures (and there were more). Sixteen times when God’s people burst forth with praise, and the word they used was the word to describe God, and His works were good. So, let’s look at a few to see what they meant by this word.

God is a source of satisfaction. The word for good here speaks of beauty, of excellence, of prosperity, and that is all found in him. And when we taste and see, then we overflow with joy. What do we mean when we say God is good? “God and God alone is man’s highest goodness.” Herman Bavinck.

We used to sing that song that said, “Oh, I feel like dancing, it’s foolishness, I know, but when the world has seen the truth, they will dance with joy like we’re dancing now.” And the funny thing is that no one would dance. We’re all too repressed, or maybe the beat wasn’t quite there.

But the Psalmist says when you truly sense God’s goodness, there is a joy that bursts from within you, and you just want to express it. There is a beat playing, and it is God’s goodness, and when you hear it, your life is a dance of celebration of those who have tasted and seen! Have you experienced it?

Wednesday Devotion: God is Always Good

Read Psalm 86:5

In this brilliant Psalm, David expresses his dependence on God and relies on his goodness. Here, he shows that God's goodness is shown through His love. What do we mean when we say God is good? He is love.

Sometimes, I have heard people talk about the God of the Old Testament, like He is different from the God of the New Testament. The God of the OT is angry and vengeful. He is strong, and He judges and condemns if you don't obey the rules. But then Jesus comes, and it's like He's a different God altogether. He is a servant; He is Grace-filled, He is merciful, He is loving. He is not worried about the rules at all!

The Psalms dispel that notion completely. The God we read about in the OT is the same as the God revealed through Jesus. He has revealed Himself as kind, compassionate, just and good. It's who He has always been and who the scriptures consistently reveal.

Even Jesus affirmed this too: "No one is good except God alone." (Luke 18) True goodness is found in God. Whenever you see something that is good, you know it has come from God. He is its source. You can't have goodness without God. You can't have God without goodness.

We can get angry with God, and He won't give up on us, but when we get angry with Him, we are showing how little we understand His love, goodness, and purpose for our lives.

Thursday Devotion: Goodness in Despair

Read Psalm 13:1-2

The reality is that even though we may hear that God is good, we don't always see that goodness around us. Our challenge is that we face difficulties all day long, and this can pull our eyes off God. A great example of this is Psalm 13.

David here is going through a really hard time. He is stuck in his situation. Listen to his language. He feels forgotten by God; He is struggling with anguish in his soul; He has sorrow in his heart every day; He has an enemy who is after him.

It's possible that his enemy was someone who was coming against him, but I think there is every possibility that this enemy is an enemy within. An enemy like fear, anxiety or depression.

Have you ever been in that place where you have a situation you feel out of control of? And you want God to do something, to show up and make it all better. But your enemy – your situation and thoughts – has the upper hand. And through it all, you wonder, "Where is God?"

Interestingly, this first part of the Psalm, the biggest part, is where David is complaining about his life. That is often the biggest part for us, too. I know I have been through times where I have wondered, "God, are you even active here?" I am struggling, and I can't see you. It's okay to be in that place. Pour your heart out to God. He wants to meet you in that place.

Friday Devotion: From Prayer to Praise

Read Psalm 13:3-6

David doesn't stay in despair instead, he moves to prayer. He requests of God in verse 3, "turn ... answer ... restore." This prayer is an urgent appeal for God's favour in his situation. He knows he is desperate and that, in his situation, the only one that can help is God.

This is the trickiest thing for us sometimes. To take our eyes off the situation and turn instead fully to God and bring our doubts and fears to him. The important part is that we do turn to God and say, "Okay, God, I need you in this situation. I need your presence and your deliverance."

Despair leads to prayer, which leads to praise in the final section. What a dramatic turnaround! From complaining, "God, where are you?" to singing "God, you are good."

Is it the transformation of experience? Maybe. David rejoices in salvation - whether actualised or hoped for, we know not. This is more the transformation of his focus on God. His focus moves from his poor circumstances to the goodness of God.

The Hebrew word for "good" (Gamal) is different here than any other use of it. The word speaks of fruit being ripened, of children being brought to maturity. It speaks of God's goodness to produce maturity in our lives.

The goodness of God is not what he does for us. It is what he does in us and through our situations. And that is the firm belief that he is good!