

Sermon Planning

18 October 2017

Series: Journey Though Job

- Nov. 5 **Title:** "Blessed Be Yahweh, Who Gives & Takes"
Scripture: Job 1:1-22
Summary: Satan is allowed to destroy Job's possessions, but not his person.
Main Idea: God is sovereign over the dark days of our lives, including the activity of our most powerful enemy.
Application: Worship is the appropriate response to God in seasons of both pain and pleasure. It is not a sin to see God as sovereign over all the events of our lives, including both what we understand to be good and bad.
- Nov. 12 **Title:** "Hold Fast to Your Faith"
Scripture: Job 2:1-13
Summary: When darkness descends, even our closest friends may tempt us to renounce our faith. This is the goal of the enemy, but God's goal is the opposite—to firm up our faith with no faltering.
Main Idea: Let not your faith falter when all else around you fails.
Application: Rest always in the unchanging character of God. The pillars of the earth may move, but God's characterizer is unchanging according to Scripture. Trust in the revealed word of God, not felt emotions.
- Nov. 19 **Title:** "Suffering: Punishment or Refinement"
Scripture: Job 5:17
Supporting verses: Prov. 3:11-12; Heb. 12:5
Summary: Don't assume you understand the will of God in the suffering of his saints. Job's friends were "miserable comforters"¹ because they assumed they knew God's secret degree concerning Job's suffering. They were only partly right. Some suffering does result from sin, but not all suffering. Some suffering is for the glory of God (see Jn. 9:3). There is a difference between punishment and discipline. Let us be careful to help the saints of God discern the difference.
Main Idea: Suffering in the saints is a sign of sonship, not separation.
Application: Ponder the pain in your life. Repent of sin. Allow your righteousness to be refined, while yearning for the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Rejoice in a Father who disciplines with the purpose of purifying faith.

¹ Job 16:2.

Nov. 26

Title: "Then Yahweh Answered Job"

Scripture: Job 38-42

Summary: We should not assume that we know better how to run the universe than does God. Job has been questioning God's decisions regarding his life and his suffering. Now God questions Job. Job ends up deciding it's best to be silent.

Main Idea: God is the greatest governor of the world, not man. Therefore, surrender to his sovereign will while resting in his goodness. His grace will sustain you through suffering (see 2 Cor. 12:9).

Application: Repent of arrogant assumptions concerning God's governance of the world. Embrace humble trust in God's exercise of his reign. Accept his authority and delight in his good governance.

Series: Longing & Listening

Dec. 3

First week of Advent: candle - Peace (purple)

Title: "Blameless But Barren"

Scripture: Luke 1:5-7

Summary: Obediently following God does not always mean life turns out the way we expect. Being "blameless" before God is no guarantee of life free from heartache. Zechariah & Elizabeth endured years of childlessness. But in the end God rewarded their faithfulness and gave them the desire of their hearts.

Main Idea: Living right does not mean living free from difficulty, but it does mean being included in God's great plan of glorifying his great name.

Application: to encourage faithful obedience through seasons of difficulty & delay; to commend God-glorifying love in the latter years of life; God uses older people for his glory too.

Dec. 10

Second week of Advent: candle - Hope (purple)

Title: "A People Prepared"

Scripture: Luke 1:8-17

Summary: Life is busy. How can we make room in our lives for our Lord? Zechariah was busy at work when he was surprised by God (i.e. an angel of the Lord).

Main Idea: Prayer, perseverance, humility, and dependance upon HS, will prepare our hearts for God and ready us to be used to turn people to Jesus.

Application: Expectation prepares us. Expect God to be active in your life. Prayer prepares us. Pray for God to use you to do his will. The Holy Spirit prepares us. Be ready to be an instrument in his hands to a) prepare the spiritual soil and 2) "turn hearts" toward God and family by the power of the HS.

Dec. 17

Third week of Advent: candle - Joy (pink)

Title: "Waiting, Wondering, & Waving"

Scripture: Luke 1:18-23

Summary: God surprised Zechariah, but he doubted Gabriel's words—the good news. Doubts lead to silence. The people outside were waiting and wondering. Don't wait on someone else's faith. Zechariah was waving (making signs) to the people to make them understand. Second-hand faith will never save you. You must make up your own mind about Jesus.

Main Idea: God is real, so be ready to meet him.

Application: Be looking for the signs all around you that point to Him. Don't trust in someone else's faith. Exercise your own faith. Pay attention to God's activity throughout the course of your day. Note his work, then share it with others around you.

Dec. 24

Fourth week of Advent: candle - Love (purple)

Morning worship service

Title: "The Holy Son of God"

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Summary: An angel tells Mary that she will conceive through the power of the Holy Spirit and her son will be called "Holy, the Son of God; the Son of the Most High." She believes and accepts this miracle even though she is a virgin.

Main Idea: Nothing is impossible with God.

Application: By faith believe the words of Gabriel; that Mary was a virgin when she conceived; live longing for God's favor in your life; believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, the Son of the Most High—the only begotten Son of Yahweh; rejoice in God's will for your life.

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve service: candle - Christ (white)

Evening worship service

Title: "Let Us Go To Bethlehem"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Summary: A familiar story unfolds, shepherds receive a message from angels about the birth of a Savior who is messiah and lord. Bethlehem is the birthplace. The shepherds say to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem." After they heard, they obey and went. After seeing Jesus and all the signs given them by the angels confirmed, they went and told everyone about what the angels had said about Jesus. All were amazed.

Main Idea: Let us be amazed once again at the birth of a Savior, messiah, & king, named Jesus.

Application: this news about Jesus is good news of great joy for all people. Our familiarity with this news ought not detract from the greatness and glory of this

news. Let us stand in awe. May we treasure, and ponder these things as we glorify and praise God for all he has done. We shall sing out our joy in Jesus.
Note: I suspect this night a significant portion of worship in song should follow the worship in word.