

Sermon Notes 03.16.2025 – Finding God in the Big Picture of Life

The Blessing of Aaron

Numbers 6:22-26 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **23** "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: **24** The LORD bless you, and keep you; **25** The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; **26** The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

The Importance of Reminding - All the Good that God has Done

Psalms 78:1-8 A Maskil of Asaph. Listen, O my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. **2** I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, **3** Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. **4** We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. **5** For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children, **6** That the generation to come might know, *even* the children *yet* to be born, That they may arise and tell *them* to their children, **7** That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments, **8** And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Don't Be Stubborn & Rebellious – Put Your Confidence in God & Don't Forget What He Has Done

- There is Proverbial Comparison Here
Generation to Generation – Confidence in God, Don't Forget What He Did, & Be Obedient
Don't Be Stubborn & Rebellious Against God, Fail to Prepare Your Heart & Spirit to be Faithful
- Can I Venture: We Need to Be Stubborn for God or Risk Becoming Stubborn Against God

The Bible Does Not Call Stubbornness for God "Stubbornness."

We Are Called to be Relentless, Steadfast, Unshakable for God – God is Discipling Us to Serve Him.

Looking to the Day That Death Would Be "Swallowed Up in Victory," We are Instructed:

1 Corinthians 15:55-58 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; **57** but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** **Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.**

Hebrews 10:35-39 **Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.** **36** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. **37** FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL

COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. 38 BUT **MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH**; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. 39 But **we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.**

James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that **the testing of your faith produces endurance.** 4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

“Don’t Back Down - With the Eyes Of Our Heart, See What God is Doing in the Big Picture & Stand”

Did God do This? Better Question: Will You Let God Use this?

We Typically Assume that It Would Be Good if God Explained Everything – Perhaps Not.

God is Relationally Discipling You for His Purposes – Perhaps a Purpose in Someone Else's Life

1 Thessalonians 5:16-25 Rejoice always;

17 pray without ceasing;

18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit;

20 do not despise prophetic utterances.

21 But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good;

22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

Comfort with the Same Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 **who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

Someone is Heading Into a Trial & God Was Preparing People Way Ahead of Time to Help

Day After Day, Asking the Father for the Holy Spirit – Humble Recognition, Growth in Fruits and Gifts

Luke 11:13 "... how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"