

SCRIPTURES FOR 3/18/07 LIFEGROUP LESSON

Proverbs 3:5-10

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.
7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and shun evil.
8 This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones.
9 Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

- 5 This is what the LORD says:
"Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who depends on flesh for his strength
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.
6 He will be like a bush in the wastelands;
he will not see prosperity when it comes. He
will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.
7 "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.
8 He will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."
9 The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?
10 "I the LORD search the heart
and examine the mind,

to reward a man according to his conduct,
according to what his deeds deserve."

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

Romans 6:17-18

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Matthew 25:23

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Psalms 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Proverbs 18:10-11

- 10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
the righteous run to it and are safe.
11 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city;
they imagine it an unscalable wall.

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

OPENING:

ICEBREAKER or GET YA THINKIN' QUESTION: _____

OPENING PRAYER NOTES: _____

INTRODUCTION:

This week, Jeff poses the question of whether we can trust God. He listed a bunch of folks or institutions he didn't trust.

Q: Did you agree with him on most of them? Were there some you didn't get?

DIG DEEPER:

There is a great passage in Jeremiah that talks about trust in really powerful terms. (*have someone read Jeremiah 17:5-10*) This whole passage is filled with comparisons – trust man / trust God, curse / blessing, depend on flesh / confidence in God, bush / tree, wastelands / stream, misses prosperity / sends roots, parched and alone / green and bears fruit. These are about as polar opposite as possible.

Q: Do you really think it is this black and white? Can you trust in man and still be happy? (*making a point w/hyperbole?*)

Q: What does God mean that the “heart is deceitful and beyond cure” and why does it matter? (*just to display sovereignty?*)

APPLICATION:

Jeff suggests that we can know three things about God and trust through observation:

1. God is trustworthy.

Q: Paul describes God's promises and plans using the words, “Here is a trustworthy saying,” FIVE times in his letters, but why should we believe it? Just because Paul says so? (*1 Tim 1:15-16*)

2. God has entrusted you. (*have someone read Romans 6:17-18*)

Q: God has entrusted us with His word. If we reciprocate, what should we do about it? (*share, teach*)

3. You are a trustee. Matthew 25:23 describes God's pleasure when we are effective trustees. Merriam-Webster describes a trustee as “one to whom something was entrusted” but it also implies a responsibility to do something with it.

Q: If we are “in charge of” or otherwise responsible for others in the church, does this necessarily mean God has entrusted us with their care – that he “trusts” us? If so, how should we respond? (*like which guy in the parable?*)

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Jeff also suggests that we can develop our trust – grow our trust – by doing three things:

1. Trust God in adversity. (*have someone read Psalm 121:1-2*) For help, this tells us where to look and why.

Q: Do you have trouble asking for help (from God or others)?

Q: Why do you think it is so hard for (you/others) to ask for help?

2. Trust God in plenty. (*have someone read Proverbs 18:10-11*)

Q: What is Solomon saying about the whole trust God / trust things issue? What does he mean by unscalable wall?

3. Trust God as our only source. We have already seen that our help comes from the Lord and He made everything.

Q: How does that translate into something we can recognize day-to-day?

Q: What can we do to remind ourselves of this fact?

CONCLUSION

Next week, Jeff will begin speaking about whether God can trust us. Stay tuned...

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

GROUP NEEDS: _____ SHUT-IN MINISTRY: _____

WHO'S LEADING...

THIS WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____

NEXT WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____