

How's Your Soul? Part 5

Summary

Throughout this sermon series, we've seen how scripture can determine the true condition of our soul. This week is no different as we look to determine the condition of our soul when it comes to God and how He does or doesn't follow through with our desires and expectations.

Hebrews 6:19

We saw this passage of scripture used last week when we talked about where our hope and the health of our soul is found. We are reminded that our hope isn't found in the things of this world but that it is found in Jesus alone. Jesus is the true anchor for our soul.

This week as we highlight this verse we bring light to the idea that our hope is oftentimes wrongly founded in our earthly wants, desires, and expectations instead of in Jesus. We find ourselves lost when we feel that God has not followed through with our desires or expectations and our view of him is changed in some way because of it. Oftentimes we long more for the gift rather than the gift giver.

Sometimes, the feelings of hurt that we experience at the loss of our desires and expectations are based on a belief that we have about God. These beliefs are counteracted with truth in the verses to come.

Hebrews 6:13-20

When God made a promise to Abraham, two unchangeable things secured that promise.

1. There is no one higher than God himself.

God sits on a throne that is higher than anything else. God sees everything, knows everything, and if we believe that his status and nature are unequivocal, then we can conclude that he sees better than we ever could. The next step is to submit to the fact that he sees better than we do. We get lost in the limbo of wanting things we believe are good for us and wanting what God has for us. The things we want may even be good. But God sees all and he knows what's best for us. Sometimes God intentionally withholds things from us that would hurt our soul instead of healing it.

2. God can't lie.

This explicitly reminds us that God has never and will never lie. It's okay to admit that this is hard to believe because there have been times in our lives where we have felt deceived. It's okay to feel like there is a disconnect between what we know about God and what we feel. Even the Prophet Jeremiah felt deceived by God. If Jeremiah can say that then we can conclude that others have felt the same way. However, these feelings have nothing to do with God's unchangeable

character and everything to do with what we bring to the table. God may not meet our expectations or time frames but He has never nor will He ever lie. He may not give us what we want but he will always give us what we need.

Any promise that God has ever made is an act of His goodness to us. God owes us nothing. Every promise God fulfills in the Bible and every expectation that He meets is a gift given from goodness. Too often we approach God with a bartering mentality. He no longer becomes revered as God but as a genie that we can manipulate to get what we want when we want it. Any promise that God fulfills is an act of His grace and mercy because the only thing we are capable of bringing to the table is our sinfulness. But it's in our sinfulness that we are offered Jesus and that is where the real life-changing work begins.

There are two promises in the Bible that God has fulfilled and continuously fulfills. The first is that God promises right standing before him through Jesus and the second is that we are adopted into sonship. Because we are adopted into sonship, he promises to keep us and to come for us when the time is right. These promises cannot be taken from us and there is nothing we can do to fix ourselves to be worthy of such a gift. However, We can be confident in these gifts because as we've learned this week, God can not and will not lie.

Verses for further study

Genesis 22:1-19

Questions for further study

1. Have you found yourself upset about a desire or expectation you had that you felt the Lord didn't honor? If so, what was it and how did you respond?
2. Are you allowing God to wipe your slate clean of all desires and expectations so that he can come in and create something new according to his will?
3. What are the similarities between the story of Abraham sacrificing Isaac and the story of Jesus on the cross?
4. In what ways is God's character highlighted in this weeks' scripture?