

Who Can You Trust?

Jeremiah 17:1-10

Trust by definition means: To place somebody or something in the care of another person. Another meaning is; to allow someone to do something having confidence that the person will behave responsibly or properly.

I would preface this message by saying one of the greatest issues we face in our world today is the issue of trust.

My brothers and sisters, the news that the pastors in Central Texas, the Brazos Valley and the pastor in North Texas had to resign from their church because of sexual immorality touches all of us very deeply today.

Whether we know them personally or not, many of us know OF the great work that God has done through them in the past. We will pray regularly for them and their families as they continue to endure a crisis that can scarcely be imagined. The impact of such a high profile moral failure is enormous for all of us.

So my brothers and sisters the question I ask today is, who can you trust. Because a minister represents Jesus Christ, a moral failure tarnishes the reputation and power of our Savior. I know that Christianity doesn't make anyone perfect, but events like this downfall makes me ask whether it's all real or just one more flawed worldview" and I wonder what Christ would do in such a situation" ?

I ask again, who can you trust? We need to remember the days when new allegations of sexual abuse by priests were being reported every day in the media. Hundreds of people came forward to say that someone who supposedly represented the highest degree of integrity, and someone they trusted, had deceived them or a member of their family. But at the same time the Bible warns, "Cursed is the one who trust in man, who depends on the flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord." (Jeremiah 17:5) So we do have a word from the Lord.

My brothers and sisters we are in trouble as a nation. How do you tell the good guys from the bad guys anymore? How do we know who is trustworthy and who is not anymore? Because there are no easy answers to these questions anymore.

Why are people so untrustworthy? Though we like to think we are driven by

rational instincts, the truth is that we are too often driven by our selfish desires. And because we want to be well thought of, it is easy for us to pay careful attention to our outward persona, and totally neglect the integrity of our hearts.

In fact, sometimes people not only deceive others, but they actually end up deceiving themselves. When our self-deception is complete, we can become wicked, destroying those around us to protect our sin sick selves.

Sometimes I wonder why we can not trust those who should be most committed to our community and care, our fathers and ours mothers, our teachers and our preachers.

It is no wonder that the sins of the world have become the sins of the church, and it is clear enough to see. And this action shows that as Christians we are not only facing a crisis in morality, but also a crisis in basic biblical spirituality,--we are content with a shallow relationship with the Lord that allows us to live in two worlds, the public world in which we exude righteousness and the hidden world in which we satisfy our own selfish desires.

So who can we trust?

Thanks be to God there are many people who have proven time and time again that they can be trusted, that they can be believed: and there is a match between what they profess, the way they live, and what they live by.

But at the same time the Bible warns, “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on the flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord” (Jeremiah 17:5). So we have a word from the Lord here today, and it is here in the text that we have an answer from the Lord about who we can trust and what we can trust in.

As we look, we see that God’s people continued to sin even though they had the law, and even though they had the prophets and even though they had a history of God’s miracles in their lives. And we also see that the people of Israel went back to idol worship.

You know the story where Moses destroyed the golden cow, that they melted, the gold that God had told them to get from the Egyptians to bring on the journey to their new land which was to be used to prepare a place for God in the tabernacle. The Ark of the Covenant.

So here in Jeremiah we hear from the Lord, “What fault did your fathers find in me that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. (Jeremiah 2:5) Because they turned their faces from God.

How could they continue to sin ,how could they continue to be unbelievers after all that God had done for them and all that God had shown them? How could they not trust him? Why do we continue today to cherish sin even though we understand the eternal consequences? That “the wages of sin is death, said the Lord” .God is the perfect Judge of the universe. The church is the most Holy place for a God who desires to be with his people. Have our hearts turned from God?

God makes it clear why we sin, it is a matter of the heart. Our hearts have been inclined toward sin from the time that we were born. It is easy to fall into the routine of forgetfulness and forsaking God, because we were born in sin and shaped in iniquity.

Jeremiah says. “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9) And “Judah’s sin is engraved on the tables of their hearts.” The Hebrews symbolized the various aspects of a person by locating them in certain physical organs. The heart was the organ of the will and love and the brain reason, and intelligence. So deep is our tendency to sin that only God’s redemption can or could deliver us. Who will you trust?

Sometimes I wonder why we can not trust those who should be most committed to our community and care, our fathers and ours mothers, our teachers and our preachers.

There are two kinds of people here, those who trust in human beings and those who trust in the Lord. The people of Judah were trusting in false gods and military alliances instead of God and they were barren and unfruitful. (Isaiah 30:1-3). The Bible say’s, “woe to the obstinate children, declared the Lord, to those who carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance but not by my spirit heaping sin upon sin.”

Those who trust in man will perish and those who trust in God will get the glory. Who will you trust? In times of trouble, those who trusted in human beings will be impoverished and spiritually destitute, so they will have no strength to draw upon and they will perish.

But those who trusted in God flourished like trees planted by rivers of water where the roots run deep enough to sustain not only growth but trust that all of their needs will be provided for them from the Lord. (Psalms 1:3).

That those who trust in the lord will have abundant strength not only for their own needs but even for the needs of others. I need to ask a question right here, are you satisfied with being unfruitful. Or do you like the well watered tree; have strength for the time of crisis and even some strength to share with others as you bear fruit for the Lord?

But we can still choose whether or not to continue in sin. We can yield to a specific temptation, or we can ask God to help us resist temptation when it comes, like the old song, we sing, “YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION, FOR TO YIELD IS TO SIN, ASK THE SAVIOR TO HELP YOU, HE WILL CARRY YOU THOUGH.”

One lesson we should remember when people we trusted disappoint us is to turn once again to the Lord in prayer and renew the desire to believe him no matter what may come or what may befall us, learn to stay with the Lord GOD .

We must remind those who turn away from the Lord because of the failure of others, that at the end of the day we all will still be confronted with a Jesus Christ who invites us to believe in him regardless of the failures of his wayward children and the followers who have denied Him.

A second lesson is that we should search our own hearts and remember that failure, serious failure, is possible for anyone of us. That a person who stumbles and falls in route to the Kingdom of heaven should cause all of us to ask the serious question, “Am I next?” We as children of God should be motivated to clean up our own lives and have greater desire to pursue personal holiness, not to point a finger at the fallen person.

Our greatest temptation is in minimizing or making our sin small by ascribing it to our background, our human nature, and our culture. These explanations might be true enough, but they do not tell the whole story: God promised victory and grace to those who walk in his ways. Leave your past behind and cling to the Lord GOD with all of your might and strength.

To make sin small is to make grace small. Only when we see sin in all of its horror and ugliness are we able to appreciate the matchless grace that both keeps

us from falling and picks us up after we stumble. Remember, we can fall, but we can also get up in Jesus Christ. Who can we trust, but Jesus Christ? Who will you trust, but Jesus Christ?

Jesus said, upon this rock I build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. No matter what happens now the battle has already been won .we are only going over the results of the battle. Satan has been loosed for a season to try to convince us that he is right, to trust him. But Jesus is the answer.

When Jesus Christ went to the cross on his own accord, He won the battle for us, his believers, the right to life and life more abundantly. When He went to Hades to tell Satan that the fight was over that He was victorious over death, and that which Satan had tricked us into believing would not happen, that there would be no more death forever.

That death because of sin would be a thing of the past. So who will you trust? I chose to trust in Jesus Christ the Savior of the world! Who do you put your trust in? I trust in God no matter what happens. What about you? If you trust in God say yes, I trust in God.

Jeremiah talks about those who would relegate God to the back burner by not depending upon Him for their needs. But God is telling him to tell them that HE is going to put them into captivity for seventy years and see if they still need Him. Sometimes God has to get our attention before we will listen to His directions and like the children of Israel, we are distant from Him, not listening to Him, Not following His directions. But thanks be to God, He can and does get our attention by allowing the enemy to put in a situation where we have to call upon Him to save us.

He reminds us that we depend upon man answers more than upon Him, that if we would return to Him there would be no problems to big for Him to solve in out lives and He reminds us that “Nothing is to hard for God.”

When we look at Jesus’ Ministry it begins with the proclaiming of the good news of God. This good news is about the kingdom of God being at hand; that we are seeing God first hand, which had not happened since the fatal fall of humankind. I’m so glad that God shows us daily that he and he alone is all we need to trust. Yes! I will trust in God and strive to do his most Holy will all of the years of my life.