

God Is Faithful
(Even When We're Not)
September 20, 2009
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- We've had some famous people pass away recently...name some of them.
- What happens in the media when a famous person dies?
 - Extensive coverage of their lives.
- And even if that person has done some bad things, what do we hear about at their funeral and in all the media coverage?
 - The "good" "flattering" "noble" things about them and what they've done.

FACT: We have no trouble getting sentimental or emotional when we remember our favorite celebrity or athlete and all the great things they've done...how often do we reminisce about the FAITHFULNESS OF GOD IN OUR LIVES AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST?

- That's what Psalm 105 is all about. Remembering the FAITHFULNESS of God to His people.
- Psalm 106 is the "flip side" of that coin. It was written to LAMENT the UNFAITHFULNESS of God's people to Him.

- What are some examples of FAITHFULNESS in family; work; in life?
 - Many years of happy marriage and faithfulness of spouses
 - Many years of service to a company
 - Doing what's right even when it hurts
- What are some examples of UNFAITHFULNESS in family; work; in life?
 - Marital unfaithfulness
 - Stealing from our employer in either time or things
 - Doing what's wrong because it serves our purposes at the time

Here's a TRUTH that applies to believers in Christ: God is FAITHFUL to us even when we're UNFAITHFUL to Him.

Here's a scary thought to ponder: What if God were only FAITHFUL to us to the extent that we were FAITHFUL to Him?

Let's look at Psalm 105 and the FAITHFULNESS of God.

Last week in Psalm 9 we saw the Psalmist (David in that case) begin with praise to God. In Psalm 105 the "unknown" Psalmist does the same.

Let's read verses 1-5 of Psalm 105

Psalm 105

1 Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

2 Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

4 Look to the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.

5 Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

- Like the Psalmist, it's always a good practice to **START BY PRAISING GOD!**
- In any situation or circumstance whether faced with **TRIUMPH** or **TRIAL** it does us **GOOD TO PRAISE GOD!**

Now let's look at verses 7 – 11 of Psalm 105:

7 He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.

8 He remembers his covenant forever,
the word he commanded, for a thousand generations,

9 the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

10 He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:

11 "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the portion you will inherit."

Now, let's "park" here a minute or two and look at these four verses.

- What does verse 7 tell us?
 - Who God is...not just a king or a great man...the God of all creation.
 - That He is the focus of our worship...not nature or man...**GOD**
- What does verse 8 tells **ABOUT** God?
 - He remembers His covenant **FOREVER**
 - "for a thousand generations" is an expression that means **FOR ETERNITY**

- What is a “covenant”?
 - A solemn agreement between two parties

TRUTH: God doesn't “need” a relationship with us...He DESIRES one. And God wants relationships that REQUIRE COMMITMENT—ON HIS PART AND OURS...that's what a COVENANT is!

- That word “REMEMBERS” translates to more than just mental memory...it implies ACTION. God REMEMBERS and DOES something about it.
- And God, doesn't lose track of His promises to us...God isn't “absent minded” or “forgetful” when it comes to his promises...He's FAITHFUL!
- God has made a few covenants with His people: He made a covenant with Noah never again to destroy the earth by flood (Gen 9:8-17)
- Verses 9, 10, and 11 refer to the covenant God made to Abraham.
 - Anyone remember what that was about?

Genesis 12:2-3

2 "I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

Genesis 15:5-6

5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."
6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

New International Version (NIV)

- And in verse 11 the other promise God made to Abraham and his people: "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit."
- This was the promise the Psalmist was referring to in Psalm 105.
- By the way, God has made a NEW COVENANT to those of use who are believers in Christ

Jeremiah 31:33-34

33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"
declares the LORD.

"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

- Through the blood of Jesus Christ a NEW COVENANT was made that we could be forgiven of all of our sin and KNOW GOD personally as Savior and Lord.
- God is Faithful to us even when we are unfaithful to Him!
- Now for the rest of Psalm 105, the Psalmist tells the story of how God was FAITHFUL to His people. For 34 verses a STORY OF FAITHFULNESS:
 - First His people were few in number
 - He protected them as they wandered from nation to nation
 - No one could touch His “anointed ones” or His “prophets”
 - Then there was a great famine
 - But he had made provisions for Joseph to be sold into slavery and eventually be the leader that would save the people of Israel
 - Then they entered Egypt
 - Jacob and his people were aliens
 - But God made them fruitful...so fruitful they began to outnumber their captors
 - Then God sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt
 - And Moses and Aaron were empowered by God to bring down signs and wonders and curses until Pharaoh relented and set them free
 - And they left “laden with silver and gold” and “from their tribes no one faltered”
 - Then He put a cloud over them as a covering during the day
 - And a fire to lead them by night
 - And He fed them with quail and “bread from Heaven”
 - He “opened the rock, and water gushed out; like a river it flowed in the desert”!

Then look at verses 42 through 45 of Psalm 105:

Psalm 105:42-45 (New International Version)

42 For he remembered his holy promise
given to his servant Abraham.

43 He brought out his people with rejoicing,
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;

44 he gave them the lands of the nations,
and they fell heir to what others had toiled for-

- And why did He do all this????

45 that they might keep his precepts
and observe his laws.

- And the Psalmist knew that was a good time to say:

Praise the LORD. [a]!!!!

- God is FAITHFUL to us even when we're UNFAITHFUL to Him.
- He kept His promises so that they would KEEP HIS PRECEPTS and OBSERVE HIS LAWS.
- Did they? Were they FAITHFUL to Him?
- That brings us to Psalm 106 --- turn the coin over and look at the other side.
- In the first five verses of Psalm 106 guess what the Psalmist does?
 - PRAISE THE LORD
 - Even when we're about to confess how we've MESSED UP it will do us good to START BY PRAISING GOD
- Then look at verse six...he cuts right to the chase:

6 We have sinned, even as our fathers did;
we have done wrong and acted wickedly.

- Then guess what the Psalmist does for the next 37 verses? Any ideas based on what was in Psalm 105?
 - He tells in great detail how UNFAITHFUL the people of Israel were to God

7 When our fathers were in Egypt,
they gave no thought to your miracles;
they did not remember your many kindnesses,
and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea. [b]

- The Red Sea? Remember what happened at the Red Sea? Did you see the movie? We're talking major special effects!
- They walked through and their enemies became shark food!
- So they sang songs and praised God
- And before the praise team had even packed up the sound system what happened?
- They forgot the whole thing...
- They put God to the test
- So what did God do: sent a "wasting disease" to remind them of who is God and who's not.
- So they shaped up for a while...but then...
- They got jealous of Moses and Aaron. "Those guys...those guys! They think their so holy and sanctimonious."
- "We'll just start our own church! We'll just overthrow Moses and Aaron...we'll just..."
- "Hey do you feel the ground moving...is it an earth quake?"
- And God opened up the ground and swallowed up the trouble makers!
- Then their followers said, "Is it hot around here or is it just me?" "Do you smell smoke?"
- And God sent fire throughout the camp and CONSUMED THE WICKED
- So the people shaped up...FOR A WHILE
- Then what happened...they FORGOT GOD again
- They said...we're bored with this...let's make a CALF out of metal and we'll WORSHIP THE CALF...it was like a CHICK FIL A CULT...look at the COW!
- And God said to Moses: "I've had it...I'm putting the torch to the whole bunch! The only one I'm sparing is YOU!"
- But Moses begged... "Please don't fry 'em God!"
- So God was FAITHFUL
- And they shaped up AGAIN...for a while...
- Then, they grumbled
- And God said I warned you...I'll strike you all down
- And Phinehas intervened and God relented
- Then they got to a place with no water.
- Instead of trusting God they threatened to STONE MOSES
- God said, okay Moses...I'll give you a water fountain in that rock over there just point at it with your stick and speak to the rock and I'll PROVIDE
- And Moses was fed up by now and he said: "Point at it? I'm so mad...how 'bout I take a whack at it!?!"
- And Moses said: "You rebels! Do Aaron and I have to do everything around here?"
- And he hit the rock with his stick and took credit for the water that God provided.
- Even Moses forgot who's God and who's not!
- Bad call Moses...you get the water but no promised land for you pal!
- Now God had told the children of Israel to destroy the people in the land he gave them

- They said: “Destroy them?” Have you seen some of those people. They look pretty good. We’re not gonna destroy them, we’re gonna marry ‘em and have kids with ‘em and start going to THEIR CHURCH! And sacrificing to idols!
- And verse 39 says:

39 They defiled themselves by what they did;
by their deeds they prostituted themselves.

- Could that ever be said about you and me?
- Have we ever FORGOTTEN who God is and DEFILED OURSELVES?
- “God, I want what I want and if need be I’ll SELL MY BIRTHRIGHT to get it!”
- So God got MAD...pick it up in verse 40:

40 Therefore the LORD was angry with his people
and abhorred his inheritance.

- He literally GOT SICK of what he had created!

41 He handed them over to the nations,
and their foes ruled over them.

42 Their enemies oppressed them
and subjected them to their power.

- Often times God will use bad people and tough circumstances to discipline His people.
- To remind us that HE IS GOD and WE’RE NOT!

43 Many times he delivered them,
but they were bent on rebellion
and they wasted away in their sin.

- Verse 43 is another one that might be said about us...
- Many times He delivered me
- But I WAS BENT ON REBELLION and
- WASTED AWAY IN MY SIN!
- A cycle of: REBELLION; JUDGEMENT; REPENTANCE; and DELIVERANCE.
- Ah, but look at verse 44 through 46

44 But he took note of their distress
when he heard their cry;

45 for their sake he remembered his covenant
and out of his great love he relented.

46 He caused them to be pitied
by all who held them captive.

God is FAITHFUL to us, even when we are UNFAITHFUL to Him.

So what's the takeaway?

- We need to spend time REMEMBERING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
 - And COMMITTING TO BE FAITHFUL TO HIM.
 - We're going to do a little exercise to help with that:
 - We're going to make our own versions of Psalms 105 and 106
 - There are handouts for everyone.
 - We're going to make two lists to take home and consider
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- Take out a pen and start on the side that reads: I Remember How God Has Been FAITHFUL To ME!
 - I want to start this list then I challenge you to take it home and get in a quiet place and finish it.
 - What are some ways God has been faithful?
 - In some quiet moments this week...get specific and finish your top 10 or so ways that God has been faithful to YOU.
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- Now if that list is your own version of Psalm 105...a list of how God has been faithful to YOU and me...and if Psalm 106 was a list of how God's people were UNFAITHFUL...what kind of list do you think we'll make on the other side.
 - Not so fast...we're not going to be so negative as to list all our sins.
 - Now turn the paper over to the side that reads: I Remember How I've Promised God To BE FAITHFUL To HIM!
 - What are examples of some things we might list as how we might promise to be FAITHFUL to Him?
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- These lists fit easily in your Bible and again, I challenge you to take them home this week and in some quiet moments fill in your own thoughts.
 - Then, periodically take them out and review your OWN PERSONAL VERSION of Psalms 105 and 106
 - Start by PRAISING GOD and then recall
 - How He's been FAITHFUL to US
 - And how WE can be FAITHFUL to Him!