

God is Good, Loving & Faithful

by Sonny Bowman

Slide Notes

Join Me for a Boat Ride

Imagine Yourself There...

- "On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." ... And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How *is it* that you have no faith?""
— Mark 4:35-40 (NKJV)

Ever been in a boat that leaks?

They were bailing water out, but getting further behind. And the more full the boat, the more the waves washed over the sides. They have lost hope.

You and I would probably be there panicking with everyone else.

What Might You Be Thinking?

- We have been helping You, so...
 - Why this bad storm?
 - Why don't you help us bail out the boat?
- You are supposed to care for people, so...
 - Is your sleep more important than us?
 - Don't you care that we are about to die?
- You said we are going to the other side, so...
 - Why are we about to sink in the middle?
 - It will look bad if we only make it half way.

The Disciples Questioned...

- His goodness
 - Why aren't you helping us?
- His love
 - Don't You care that we are about to die?
- His faithfulness
 - You are failing to get us to the other side!

Then Jesus Questioned Them...

- Why are you so fearful?
- How could you not have any faith?

- Jesus wanted them to evaluate their attitudes to see the core problems.
- They did not have a circumstance problem, they had a lack of faith problem.
- The disciples doubted three crucial aspects of God's character

Jesus was in the same circumstances, but He was not fearful.

The fear was not due to the circumstances. It was due to a lack of faith!

Jesus is getting the disciples to realize that they don't have a circumstance problem, they have a faith problem.

So what should they believe?

1. God is Good!

God Cannot Be Or Do Anything Not Good

- Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. — James 1:17
- Oh, taste and see that the Lord *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him! — Psalm 34:8
- ... The goodness of God *endures* continually. — Psalm 52:1

God's Goodness Gets Us On Track

- Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? — Romans 2:4
- It brings proper perspective, understanding, and focus, along with motivation
- God's goodness is the first thing questioned when things happen that we don't like or understand.

God's Goodness Challenged Early

- "Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."
— Genesis 3:4-6

To this day, the enemy still challenges the goodness of God in each of our hearts.

Eve evaluated the tree, and based on her own limited observations, she determined it would be good to eat. She ignored the input she had received from God that the fruit would cause death. By getting Eve to question God's goodness based on her own limited understanding, Satan convinced her to rebel against God.

Like many of our bad choices, she was made immediately wiser by her poor choice. She realized that was the wrong thing to do.

Since God is Good We Know

- God is the very source & definition of good.
- He will never do anything that is not good.
- He cannot do anything that is evil or bad.
- We may not understand or like what God does, but we must trust that anything He says or does cannot be anything but good.
- We must interpret our circumstances by God's goodness—not the other way around.

This was Eve's mistake!

2. God is Loving!

He is Highly Motivated To Do Good For Us

- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. — John 3:16
- But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...
— Ephesians 2:4-5

Not only is God good, but His great love for us strongly motivates Him to do good for us.

Wrong Idea About Love

- God cannot change, so His love is not based on our goodness
 - *Through* the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. *They are* new every morning; Great *is* Your faithfulness.
— Lamentations 3:22-23
 - "For I *am* the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.
— Malachi 3:6

Real Love Confronts Sin

- God loves you too much to not challenge your bad choices.
- As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.
— Revelation 3:19

Another wrong idea about love, that love doesn't make anyone feel bad by pointing out something that is wrong.

Since God is Loving We Know

- He cares about our true well-being.
- He would never do anything that is unloving or unkind.
- He would never do anything that is less than self-sacrificing love for us.
- God's love moves Him to take the initiative in our relationships.
- He will respect our rejection of His love, but will never reject our acceptance of His loving outreach.

3. God is Faithful!

He Cannot Fail To Be Good And Loving

- My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.
— Psalm 89:34
- If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.
— 2 Timothy 2:13
- For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! ...
— Romans 3:3-4

Be Content Because God is Faithful

- Let your conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" — Hebrews 13:5

Getting money or things is not the solution for your life.

Appreciate and be content with the things you do have.

God is putting your circumstances into the context of Him and His faithfulness to you.

Realize that even if you lose everything, you will never lose God's love and acceptance.

He is good and will be with you.

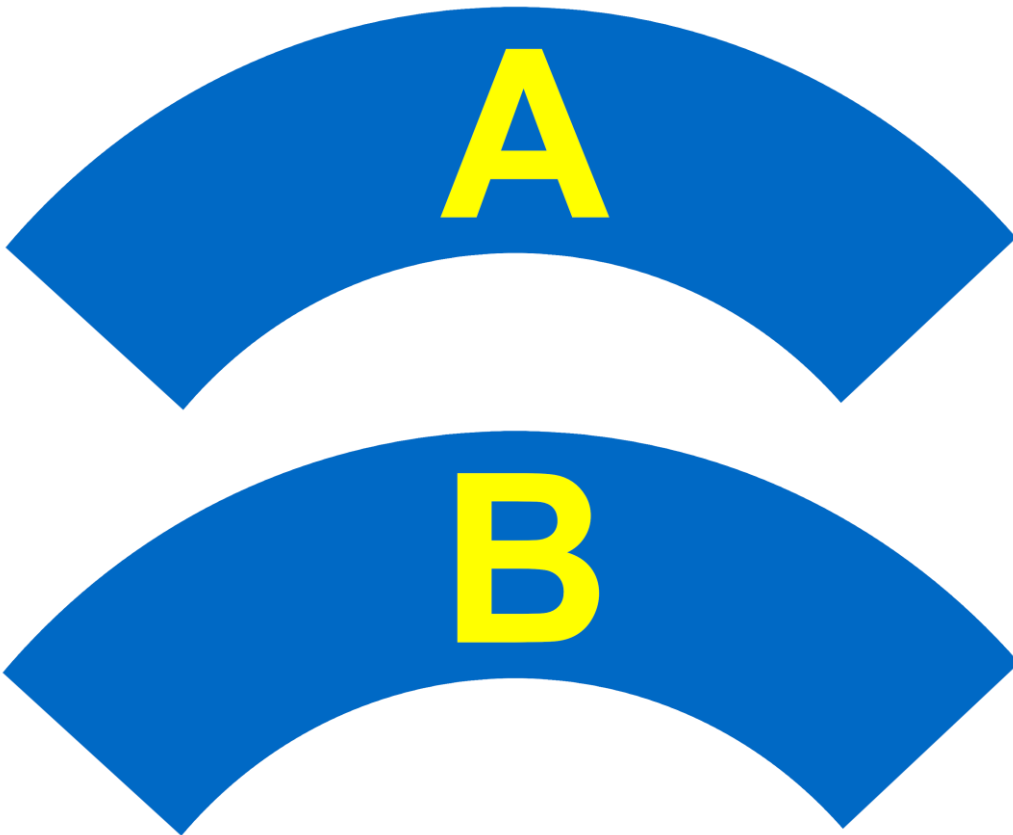
He is faithful and will never leave you.

His love is implied.

Since God is Faithful We Know...

- We can fully trust God.
- He cannot do anything that would violate His goodness and loving kindness.
- Nor can He fail to do what He says He will do.
- Regardless of our actions and our unfaithfulness, God remains faithful. He cannot violate His own nature and character.
- We can be totally confident that God cannot fail to be good and loving towards us.

Which Looks Wider?



They are both exactly the same, but our eyes and brain still tell us the bottom one is wider even when we know the truth.

We Can't Trust Our Own Perspective

- If we can't trust our eyes and brains to accurately determine something simple.
- Why would we put more trust in our own limited understanding of circumstances than in God's undistorted explanation?
- Don't make the same mistake Eve made!

So How Can We Do That?

- Don't judge God's goodness, love, and faithfulness by your changing circumstances
- Remind yourself that you don't understand any situation fully
- Trust God even when you don't see or understand
- NEVER accuse God of being ungodly

The Whole Enchilada!

- "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation." — Romans 5:8-11

If you just quickly read through this, you will miss a lot of important stuff!

God's love takes action.

God loved us while we were still bad.

We are made righteous by Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.

We are saved by God from the deserved judgment for our sin. God is Holy and Just. Justice has been satisfied!

Jesus died to reconcile us even while we were active enemies.

We have life through the life of Jesus. We have great joy through Jesus.

We have been brought into intimate relationship with God by Jesus. And we don't have to wait until Heaven to begin enjoying it!

Back in the Boat

- Okay that they recognized boat was sinking and circumstances were severe
- But there was additional information they did not recognize
 - Jesus was not fearful or worried
- Okay to ask questions, but need to ask better questions
 - “Jesus, things look pretty bad here, but you are at peace. How can we have that peace, and what should we do?”

To Find Stability, Joy, & Focus...

- God is Good
 - He cannot be or do anything that is not good!
- God is Loving
 - He is highly motivated to do good for us and His love never changes!
- God is Faithful
 - He cannot fail to do what is good and loving!

- Interpret all your circumstances in the context of God’s goodness, love, and faithfulness!

God is Good!

God is Loving!

God is Faithful!