

TAKE IT HOME

GRACE FOR THE GRUMBLER

EXODUS 15:22-16:36; January 24, 2010

Main Idea of the sermon- Trusting in God's provision in the everyday will result in glad-hearted obedience and not grumbling.

Outline

1. *Trusting God produces glad-hearted thanks not grumbling*
 - a. *God is gloriously trustworthy*
 - i. *Loves to give good gifts to his children (Matt. 7:7-11)*
 - ii. *Exodus 15:26 healer*
 - iii. *Exodus 16:4 I am about to rain bread*
 - iv. *v12 I have heard the grumbling you will eat meat and be filled with bread*
 - v. *v18 nothing left over, no lack*
 1. *They still disobey and grumble*
 - vi. *v22 I will give you twice as much bread and provide you a day of rest.*
 - vii. *You should almost be outraged by God's love, pursuit and kindness to sinful Israel.*
 - viii. *All this reflects God's character toward me.*

Luke 12:32 *It is God's good pleasure to give them the kingdom.*
 - b. *Grumbling is a glory is issue*
 - i. *Grumbling means you either: think he is not powerful enough to provide.*
 - ii. *... think he is not good in what he provides or when he provides it.*
2. *Trusting God produces glad-hearted obedience*
 - a. *Trusting God means we will obey*
 - b. *Obedience includes heart and action*
 - c. *Work and rest are both obedience*

Lunch Discussion

1. Talk about interesting parts of the text from today.
Share one idea God used to convict or comfort your heart

- from the sermon today. Point to where it came from in the text.
2. Recount God's provision to one another from the large things to the small things. Remind one another of how God provides.
3. ****Have you been grumbling? Over what? What have you really been saying about God? Say right and true things about God to replace these lies you are tempted to believe in the heat of life. Use Scripture to fuel your faith and to curb your grumbling heart and fill you with faith.**
4. Have your words and your actions been inconsistent? If you say you trust him you will be joyfully obedient. Ask those in your family or friends or community group to pray for your joy and/or your obedience to God in a certain area (ie. reading the Bible, generosity with money, kindness or hard work at work, etc.) or with certain people (ie. joyful obedience with my family, my co-workers, my wife, kids, roommates, etc.) Watch what God does when you and others join in together with the simple prayer "God make me a joyful servant at ... or with ...)

Community Group Questions

LEADERSHIP TIPS (This was taken from a training session at Sovereign Grace Fairfax, VA)

Five Pointers on Using the Take It Home Questions:

1. You'll always have twice as many Take it Home questions as you will need for your group. Choose ones that might be most helpful for your group.
2. Don't focus on answering all the questions, use the questions to get into personal application.
3. Take some time to read the passage and remind the folks of the main points and key ideas, but keep this as brief as possible. Don't re-preach the message.
4. Come with a back-up plan. If you're not getting a lift from the Take it Home questions, have a question relevant to what's going on with the folks in the group.
5. Try to engage folks in responding to each other, so you don't become the 'answer person'.

Leaders remember our monthly goals

1. Prayer- around gospel encounters, pains in the group, praises of our great God.
2. Encourage intentional living (gospel in the everyday)
3. Verbally inform about church life- announcements (or prayer about - facility, prayer regarding pressing issues in your group or in the church- see point one)
4. Putting off the old self and putting on Christ
 - a. sermon application and
 - b. confession leading to repentance through accountability- we want people to be suspicious of their own hearts and learn to apply the gospel with adults and children.
5. Joy in all you do ☺

Refresh everyone's memory of the text by going over the outline of the sermon. Then seek to apply some of the following questions:

1. Take any of the lunch discussion questions and apply them to one another.
2. Share promises from this text and others that shows God loves to give good gifts to his people (even though he knows they are sinners).
3. Share a time in the past or the present when God derailed your plans. Explain the situation and your feelings through it. What are some Scriptures (from this text and others) that remind us that God uses pain and changing of our plans to strengthen our faith? Recall that he is still providing for his people in the waiting, and that he will give us everything we need when we need it (Romans 8:28-32, Philippians 4:19, etc).
 - a. For some of you, share how you can see God's greater purposes for your life in your waiting or in the fact that your plans have been changed.
 - b. Charles Spurgeon, *An All-Round Ministry*, p16 "Faith leads us to believe in difficulties being over-ruled to promote success. ...We believe in waiting, weeping and agonizing. We believe in

a non-success, which prepares us for doing greater and higher work, for which we should not have been fitted unless anguish had sharpened the soul. We believe in our infirmities, and even glory in them; we thank God that we are not so eloquent as we wish we could be, and have not all the abilities we might desire, because now we know that the "excellency of the power" shall "be of God and not of us." ***Faith enables us to rejoice that our infirmities become platforms for the display of his grace.*** "

- c. Sometimes God has to short circuit our best plans for our benefit.- Tony Dungy

4. How can you show off God's grace in your pain and changes of plans?
5. **Are there any areas in your life where you lack joy regularly but you blame that on someone else? Remember grumbling is a glory issue we must not let ourselves off the hook by blaming others or our circumstances. Because our grumbling is not against people. It is against God. Confess this specific area to your group and be diligent to call and ask about in the upcoming week.
6. Obedience is not just action or not just joy. It is both Exodus 15 and Exodus 16. Exodus 16 reminds us that grumbling is disobedience and calls the people to faith-filled acts that accord with God's commands. This is for our good. Is there an area where God by His Spirit has been convicting you of your need to obey? Share that with your accountability group. Leaders have a proper balance of gospel grace (God's provision for sinners) and the call to repentance and faith (specifically over grumbling and our lack of joy).