

“Three Pennies and a Rock – Trust” {outline}

Psalm 91; Matthew 18:1-4

October 31, 2021

Introduction

- Child Like Faith – Lillian’s Story
- **Matthew 18:1-4** – *“At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*
- Why?
 - o First of all, we adults have gotten too big for our britches
 - Notice at the very beginning of this passage why Jesus has to call over a kid in the first place
 - Because they’re trying to establish hierarchies.
 - o Who is on TOP!
 - o Second of all, the reason we get too big for our britches is that we become too reliant on ourselves.
 - In fact, we come over time to trust ourselves TOO much!
 - Kid’s trust the people who THEY KNOW love them without hesitation!
 - o They LEARN FROM THOSE PEOPLE, like sponges.

We Trust Ourselves BUT DON’T TRUST GOD

- We love ourselves oftentimes far more than we believe God loves us.
 - o So, we trust ourselves far more than we trust our God.
- Remember failures much more readily and acutely than successes with one notable exception – when a success glorifies us, we never forget.
 - o We remember God’s FAILURES while also reliving our SUCCESSES
 - Ask Natalie, I can recall every single time I did something above and beyond my routine household duties.
 - Why?
 - Because I probably told Natalie about them 10 times at the very least.
 - o Funny how I don’t remember my failures, even when there is a sink full of dirty dishes.
 - o Case in point T-Ball Team story – God Failed
 - Blue Bombers – Best team ever
 - Wanted to play so bad.
 - Prayed that night – no rain tomorrow
 - Poured.
 - Still remember that one

Now look, I’ve since learned that God isn’t a machine designed to reward me whenever I ask Him to.

Reasons We Don’t Trust the Bible Must Be Examined

- 1. It’s not always as accurate as scholars tell us it should be
 - o Click, WHIRR
 - Robert Cialdini
 - Ask someone WHY they don’t TRUST the Bible
 - Standard ANSWERS, like they haven’t put any thought into it what so ever.
 - o Who wouldn’t like the idea of being free from what the Bible suggests based on the faulty belief that if it’s WRONG in some areas, it’s wrong in them all?
 - o That may be true upon a strictly SCIENTIFIC basis, but as it relates to you and your relationship with Jesus Christ, how could it be INACURATE?

- **2 Timothy 3:16** – *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*
 - Notice what it doesn't say – It's useful as a science book or that it's literally true.
 - It says that it is OF GOD and USEFUL.
- 2. It doesn't make sense
 - How many of us have picked up a Bible at some crossroads in our lives, flipped open and just read.
 - That's like Pin-the-Tail-on-the-Donkey
 - Remember that game?
 - They spin you around until you're dizzy, blindfolded and head you to a small target.
 - That's what many people will do.
 - CONCORDANCE
 - Topical list of Scriptures
 - A Magic 8 Ball
 - That makes sense. Clear, concise. Even when its ambiguous, at least its definitive.
 - But would you want to trust the Magic 8 Ball
 - Dream about OSU-Michigan Game Story
 - I DID. Had a dream, OSU wins (they were the underdog)
 - Gambled with a friend who was a huge Michigan fan - \$20.
 - Sister had a Magic 8 Ball still.
 - It said "WITHOUT A DOUBT"
 - This problem can be resolved
- 3. It often comes out on a completely different side of our culture
 - And it does, on lots and lots of things.
 - Probably does on the things you want it to.
 - But you know what?
 - It might very well on some things you DON'T want it to.
 - It's funny how most people who complain about other people's sins, very rarely mention their own!
 - FG story – Gossip
 - Way of introducing Gossip – "Well, you know about so-and-so, don't you?"
 - I heard about affairs, alcoholism, theft, you name it.
 - Guess what She never once told me?
 - A gossip story
 - Return to comes out on the OTHER SIDE OF CULTURE
 - **Isaiah 55:8-9** – *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*
 - But it comes out on the right side of Heaven's Culture

Conclusion – 1st Peter Story

- Why I love First Peter
- Deana Stanford and I were talking about this yesterday
- Trust God MORE
 - Led to First Peter
 - Studied it

- Tell about Bible Study
 - Line by line on that one
- Worked out a map from scripture.
 - Like a flowchart
 - I realized, if I just trusted God as I could know Him through the Word, I couldn't lose.
 - In Good Times - I can be generous
 - In Bad Times – I can be grateful because I KNOW that I'm learning something
- That study of Peter led me into the highest level of TRUST in the WORD I had ever known.
- I taught that to my small group.
 - Walked out of the room wondering just who I had helped.
 - My sister died the next day.
 - I was as equipped as ever.
 - I struggled past that point with her passing, I don't want to make it sound rosier than it really was.
 - But I never stopped trusting God.
 - Still haven't.