



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Psalms Sermon Series

Supports Session 8: God's Faithfulness

Sermon Title: "Boast in the Lord" (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Connection to Session 8

Psalms 105 urges the reader to worship God because of His faithfulness toward His people by boasting in His holy name (Ps. 105:3). The boast of God's people should be in God and His salvation, not in ourselves.

Introduction/Opening

We are tempted to boast in many things. Boasting essentially means to brag or express great satisfaction in what we have, who we are, or what we have done. Perhaps we have won an award at work or achieved something of great significance. Boasting places the focus of attention on us and our abilities, all while passing over the God who gave us the abilities and resources to achieve or enjoy what we have. In a key passage in Jeremiah, the Lord reminds His people not to boast in anything but Him—He had shown His faithfulness to them again and again, in spite of their idolatry and unfaithfulness.

Outline

1. How Not to Boast (Jer. 9:23)

- a. We should not boast in our wisdom. Throughout the Old Testament, the Bible encourages us to pursue wisdom. King Solomon had greater wisdom than anyone in the East and in Egypt, so much so that his reputation spread to the surrounding nations (1 Kings 4:29-31). However, God was the source of Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 4:29). In the book of Ecclesiastes, we are cautioned against pursuing wisdom for wisdom's sake, because it is a vain striving after the wind and increases sorrow (Eccl. 1:16-18).
- b. We should not boast in our strength. God, as the Creator, is the giver of every good thing—even our strength, power, and abilities. Samson was given great strength, but he was not guided by God's wisdom and used his strength to pursue his own desires (Judg. 13-16).
- c. We should not boast in our wealth. The Bible often warns us about the deceptiveness of possessions and riches. Proverbs 23:4-5 says, "Don't wear yourself out to get rich; because you know better, stop! As soon as your eyes fly to it, it disappears, for it makes wings for itself and flies like an eagle to the sky." The Teacher in Ecclesiastes warns us of possessions, as well. His conclusion after accumulating much was that everything was futile (Eccl. 2:11). Jesus also famously spoke about the difficulty of the rich entering the kingdom of God

(Mark 10:23), and that the desire for wealth can hinder how we hear God’s Word in our lives (Matt. 13:22). Paul also wrote that “those who want to be rich fall into temptation” which ultimately leads to “destruction” (1 Tim. 6:9).

- d. The great antidote to boasting is humility. We must remember who we are before God—we are His creatures, and He is the Creator. We were unrighteous, without hope, and yet, while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8).
- e. Our wisdom, strength, and wealth are not meant to terminate on us, bringing glory to ourselves. However, we are meant to use all of these things to bring glory to God (Col. 3:23).

2. How to Boast Properly (Jer. 9:24)

- a. Boast in knowing God. When Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, he reminded the believers that many of them were not wise, powerful, or of noble birth, but “God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong” (1 Cor. 1:27). As a result of understanding our condition when God saved us, we should boast only in the Lord (1 Cor. 1:31).
- b. Boast in His faithful love. The Old Testament speaks of the longsuffering patience of God with His people. Over and over again, God redeemed and delivered His people after they pursued their own desires. Like the father of the prodigal son, God loves us even when we pursue false pleasures (Luke 15). When we confess our sins, He is faithful time and time again to forgive us because of the work of Christ.
- c. Boast in His righteousness. God is perfectly righteous and just in all He does. According to Psalm 33:4, “For the word of the LORD is right, and all his work is trustworthy.” He delights in justice and righteousness—but in our sin and apart from faith in Jesus, we cannot produce the righteousness God requires.
- d. Jesus said that eternal life is found in knowing God and Jesus Christ (John 17:3). It is only in knowing God through Christ that we have the righteousness required for salvation. God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin so that we could become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). This should drive us to make knowing God the central aim of our lives (Phil. 3:10).

Conclusion

Where is our boast? Are we most proud of our accomplishments? Our possessions? Our wealth? Our intelligence? Or are we absolutely amazed at the fact that we personally know the Creator and Redeemer of the world?

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