



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Sermon Series // Joshua; Judges; Ruth

Supports Session 12: Faithfulness

Sermon Title: "God Faithfully Provides" (Romans 5:6-11)

Connection to Session 12

This morning's Bible study taught us about the faithfulness of God with how He provided for Ruth during her time of great need. Today's sermon will build upon this truth by showing how God is faithful to provide for us in our time of need as well.

Introduction/Opening

If we would take a moment, then we may be able to learn from our pets. Pet owners can quickly grow to love their pets like family. The pets, in turn, love us and trust us to provide for them. The point we can learn from them is in their loyal trust of us. What would it look like for us to trust God's provision as much as our pets trust our provision for them? Let's study God's Word this morning to learn about our deep need for Him and His faithful provisions for us.

Outline

1. Truths about our needs

- a. ***We are helpless*** (v. 6). Let's be honest: we do not like admitting that we need help. This is one of the reasons why we will ask AI for help before we ask a friend. We don't want to admit our need to our friend.

Yet Scripture could not be any clearer. Paul told the church at Rome, "while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly." We learn at least two significant truths in this verse. First, our helpless estate is a result of being ungodly. Second, Paul wrote this in the past tense. Therefore, the helpless estate was not and need not be permanent. It is important to point out that Paul was writing to believers in Rome who were no longer helpless because of their belief in Jesus.

- b. ***We are sinners*** (v. 8). We need to admit our problems before we can truly ask for help. If I am struggling with math, then I need to admit that I do not understand it. If I am struggling to be a good spouse or parent, then I need to admit my shortfalls. A crucial step to coming to faith in Jesus is to admit that we are sinners.

“To sin” means to miss the mark. God has a mark for us, and it is to be holy. He knows that we cannot meet this standard, and this is why He has provided a means to make this right. Our initial response is to confess to Him that we have missed His standard of holiness and are helpless without Him.

2. Truths about God’s provisions

- a. ***Christ died for us*** (v. 8). We can tell our children that we love them, and we can show our children that we love them. But the best thing is not to do one or the other; we must both verbalize and show our love to them. This is exactly what God did. He proved His love for us by sending His Son Jesus to die for us.

Another close look at the text reveals an amazing truth about God’s provision. Paul told the church that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” The enemy wants us to believe that we need to clean ourselves up and then come to Jesus for salvation. The truth, however, is that God knows we have missed His mark, so He sent Jesus to save us while we were still sinners. The biblical order is to come to Jesus in our helpless state because we are sinners. Once we come into a relationship with Him, we are then declared righteous and start down the path of growth known as sanctification.

- b. ***We are declared righteous*** (v. 9). When we are saved, we are declared righteous. When something is declared, a person will shout or loudly proclaim it to others. To be justified simply means to be in a right relationship with another. If there is great harmony in our homes or in the church, then we know that people are in right relationship with one another. Paul told the church that they had been justified and were in a right relationship with the Father because of Christ’s actions on the cross.

Paul continued to articulate this truth by stating that the righteousness was because of the blood of Christ. The author of Hebrews said, “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Heb. 9:22). The blood of an animal sacrifice was not sufficient to forgive the sins of mankind and allow us to be declared righteous. Only the blood of Jesus is sufficient.

- c. ***Our reconciliation is received*** (v. 11). To receive something and to earn something are completely different. If I work hard throughout the week, then I will receive a wage for my work. Our reconciliation, which means to be forgiven, is received.

When someone wants to give us something that we know we need, then it is wise to accept the gift. Not accepting the gift does not change the nature of the gift—it is a gift no matter what. It is vital, however, for the one in a helpless state of being to accept the gift and not remain helpless.

Conclusion

We learned in Bible study this morning that Ruth needed food and the Lord provided for her. We learned in today's sermon that we need reconciliation with God, and He has provided a means for us to be reconciled through Jesus. Some today may have accepted and received this gift already. If so, then we are called to proclaim this truth. Some, however, may not have received this gift. If you are in this group, then let today be the day you admit your helpless state and be reconciled to God through Jesus.

Tod Tanner has degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas and Tennessee. He and his family reside in Middle Tennessee. He is serving as the Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation and a bi-vocational pastor.

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