



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, April 17, 2011

Live By Faith: Mercy and Grace

Hebrews 4:14-16

Mike Moses, Lead Pastor

Today is Palm Sunday. It is this day, 2000 years ago that Jesus rode into Jerusalem, recognized by the crowd as the one that would save them. Yet he didn't save them the way they thought he would.

When has God "shown up", "rescued" or "saved you" in a way that you didn't imagine he would?

Faith is "the confidence that God is who God says he is, and he will always do what he has promised to do." What are things that you thought God had promised you but come to find out he actually didn't?

Mike listed some things this morning that God did NOT promise. Reflect on each of these and ways you may or may not live thinking he has promised each:

- 1) He has not promised to keep bad things from happening to me.
- 2) He has not promised to heal me from every illness.
- 3) He has not promised to reverse the consequences of sinful or unwise decisions I make.
- 4) He has not promised to make every Christian wealthy.

Looking at each of these, what stories in the Bible come to mind about Jesus and/or his disciples and how their lives show that these are not promised. (Examples: Acts 7:54-60; Matthew 27)

Read Hebrews 4:14-16 to understand what we have been promised.

What are we promised in these verses?

When bad things happen to you and when good things happen to you, what are you promised in these verses?

When you are healed from a disease or you watch a friend not healed, what are you promised in these verses?

When the consequence of your sin is not reversed, what are you promised in these verses?

When you have wealth or when you do not have wealth, what are you promised in these verses?

Many times our circumstances drive us away from God because we are clinging to something that he has never promised. How does this verse tell us to approach the throne of grace and why?

What keeps us from approaching God's throne with confidence?

Mike ended the service with the question: "are you holding God to things he hasn't promised you?" This week, try to keep a notepad with you and anytime you realize that you are expecting something from God that he has NOT promised, write it down.

WARNING: when we realize things that God has not promised, there is a temptation to stop talking to God because we suddenly find that we don't have much to talk about. This is because we start to realize that all of our discussions with God have been based on things that he has not promised. **BUT**, let this be a time for God to change your conversation. **DON'T** stop talking to him! Come with confidence and talk with him about what he **HAS** promised!!!

End the group time by everyone in the group saying, "Thank you God that you have promised to be in the middle of what we go through and that you have experienced everything we go through. Thank you for your mercy and grace."