

Pastor Troy (Sermonette)

Sunday, Oct 4th, 2020

Just reading an overview of the “Word of God” study I have been doing these past several months. Encouraging Words to remind us where we came from and where we are still going...

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

The Bible’s very first verse establishes the importance of Scripture. Our entire universe has been created by God, and its Scripture that tells us the story of his relationship with this world and its inhabitants

Why is this verse inspirational?

Even when we believe the truth of this verse, it’s easy to forget its significance. We are not alone. The God who invites us to walk with him is the same one who formed our solar system. Just stop and think about that. The same being who established the earth’s seasons and knit your central nervous system together cares immensely about you.

Exodus 34:6

“And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,”

Moses had a profound relationship with God. Scripture tells us that he spoke to God “face to face, as one speaks to a friend” (Exodus 33:11). When Moses met with God on the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments, God came down in a cloud and spoke these words to him.

Why is this verse inspirational?

God wants to tell Moses who he is. It’s profoundly significant that the first thing he wants Moses to understand is that he is compassionate and gracious. He doesn’t start by establishing his power or his wrath. He wants his people to know that he is “slow to anger, and abounding in love and faithfulness.”

Leviticus 20:26

“And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.”

The book of Leviticus is full of detailed laws regarding the Israelite’s day-to-day life. It demonstrates God’s concern for how we live our own lives. Leviticus 20:26 communicates why God is so interested in how we live.

Why is this verse inspirational?

The word holy literally means “set apart.” As God is set apart from his creation, he desires his people to be set apart from the world around them. Sometimes it’s easy to blend in, but it’s important to remember that God has called us to value and prioritize things differently than those around us.

Numbers 23:19

“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

Balaam was a prophet who spoke for God in the book of Numbers. Here he is speaking to Balak, the king of Moab, who has asked Balaam to curse Jacob. Balaam can’t do it, because God has already made a promise to Jacob.

Why is this verse inspirational?

In this exchange with Balak, we’re reminded of God’s steadfastness. God’s promises don’t have an expiration date, and we don’t have to wonder if we can trust in them. If God said he will do it, he will. And that should give us an extraordinary amount of faith.

Deuteronomy 31:6

“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”

God is leading his people into the promised land. The journey is arduous and the obstacles are significant. Here Moses reminds his people that they can't let fear stop them from believing that God will fulfill his promises.

Why is this verse inspirational?

We all have hurdles, especially when it comes to walking closely with God. We need to be reminded that God is faithful to us—even as we struggle to be faithful to him.

Inspiration from the Historical Narratives

The following books of the Bible fall under the category of historical narrative. They tell the continuing story of God and his people.

Joshua 1:7–9

“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

After Moses' death, Joshua must pick up his mantle and lead God's people into the promised land—an intimidating responsibility for anyone. Here God instructs and encourages Joshua for the task that lies ahead.

Why are these verses inspirational?

It makes sense that Joshua would be nervous about the future. He needs to trust God lead a contentious group of people through dangerous territory. God wants to remind him to keep the main thing the main thing. “Focus on obeying me,” God tells him, “and I'll take care of the obstacles.” This is powerful advice we all need to remember.

Judges 3:9

“When the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them...”

Judges is a dark book. Israel is undergoing political and religious turmoil, and the tribes of Israel are at war with each other. God's judgment comes in the form of foreign oppression. But as Israel repents and cries out to God, he raises up judges to save them.

Why is this verse inspirational?

Israel is suffering because of the bad choices they are making, but even in their disobedience and arrogance, God is listening. When they repent, God delivers them. We, too, find ourselves in troubles that we've created. But that doesn't mean that God has departed from us. When we turn to him, he responds.

Ruth 1:17–18

“But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.”

During the time of the judges, there’s a significant famine. A woman named Naomi immigrated to Moab with her husband and her two sons. Her sons marry two Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah.

Within a couple years of her husband dying, Naomi’s sons die, too. She’s left with her daughters-in-law. Naomi tells the women to return to their mothers and remarry. Orpah agrees to leave, but Ruth pledges her faithfulness to Naomi with these words.

Why are these verses inspirational?

God never intended for us to walk through life alone. God has always been about raising up a people who would support each other and bless those around them. Here we see what that looks like. These verses remind us of the importance of support and faithfulness, and to look for God’s provision in our relationships.

Sneak preview for the coming month-- key verses.

1 Samuel 16:7

“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Saul, Israel’s first king, is an utter failure. God rejects him and sends his prophet Samuel to anoint the new king he has chosen. Samuel is to go to Bethlehem and invite a man named Jesse to the sacrifice. When Samuel sees Jesse’s strapping oldest son, Eliab, he thinks he’s found God’s anointed. But God tells him otherwise.

Why are these verses inspirational?

We spend our whole lives judging the world by appearances and having others judge us the same way. And if we’re honest, we tend to judge ourselves by appearance, too. It’s inspiring to remember that God doesn’t see things the way that we do. He sees beyond the obvious and encourages us to do the same.

2 Samuel 7:22

“Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.”

Through the prophet Nathan, God reminds David that he’s taken him from the pasture and appointed him as ruler over Israel. He also informs him that David’s name will be great and the throne of his kingdom will endure forever. This verse comes from David’s prayerful response.

Why is this verse inspirational?

In a world full of idols, David reminds us that there is no God like the God of Israel. In light of the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus, we know that to be true in a way that even David couldn’t fathom. This world offers us plenty to worship, but nothing compares to the one true God.