



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Ezekiel, Daniel Sermon Series
Supports Session 2: Saves
Sermon Title: "The Beauty of God's Faithfulness"
Passage: Ezekiel 16:60-63

Connection to Ezekiel 11:2-4,14-21

God offers hope in the midst of judgment to those who trust in Him. The hope He offers can be seen in His faithfulness to His people even when we've been unfaithful to Him.

Introduction/Opening

When we behold something beautiful, we fix our gaze, take a long look, and remember what we've seen.

Ezekiel 16:60-63 points to the beauty of the Lord's faithfulness. God's people had been terribly unfaithful to Him. In spite of their unfaithfulness, He continued to be faithful to them.

As we'll see, His faithfulness to us in the face of our forgetfulness is something to behold!

Outline

1. He's faithful because He remembers (vv. 60-61).
 - a. In Ezekiel 16, the Lord spoke through His prophet to remind His people of His faithfulness to them. He spoke to His people in intimate terms by comparing His relationship with them to a marriage covenant. He compared them to a baby girl who had been left alone in the world. An orphan without a place to live, she grew to become a lovely young lady because He protected her and provided for her. In due time, He married her (16:8). Their relationship grew as He provided for her in ways that demonstrated His love for her and His careful attention to her. As a result, she continued to mature into an elegant woman whom everyone admired (16:9-14).
 - b. What God's people in Ezekiel's day knew well, we know even better because we live on this side of the cross. Using the comparison provided for us in Ezekiel 16, we can verify that the Lord's been more than faithful to us. Our relationship with Him didn't start because we found Him. He took the initiative in our relationship with Him by rescuing us (Col. 1:13-14). Having saved us, He keeps on helping us so we can grow toward maturity in Him. Because of the work of His Spirit in us, we have the potential to display to the world a remarkable way of living. His investment in us allows us to exhibit a settled peace in the most unsettling times (Phil. 4:6-7). Likewise, He adorns us with the character traits to declare to everyone that we have no fear because of His love at work in us (Rom. 8:35-39).

- c. He's faithful to help us because He always remembers us. He will not forget us or His love that moves Him to care for us. For that reason, we can count on Him to keep His promise to abide in us as we abide in Him (John 15:1-11).
2. We're unfaithful because we forget (vv. 62-63).
- a. God's people behaved like a wife who had forgotten about her husband. Everything done for her seemed to fade from her memory as she began to turn her attention to other suitors. Instead of being devoted to Him, she formed illicit relationships with others. Over time, her adultery had no limits as she flaunted her unfaithfulness (16:15-43). Of course, she would be held accountable for having walked out on her marriage. Her willingness to forget about her marriage would haunt her and turn her arrogance into shame (16:44-59). When that sad outcome became a reality, she would begin to remember her marriage once more. The memory that had faded would return in vivid detail. She would remember the faithfulness of her husband. That's when she would put her unfaithfulness behind her, thanks to her husband's initiative to restore her relationship with him.
 - b. Believers can identify with God's people in Ezekiel's day. When we drift away from a steady walk with the Lord, our memory of His devotion to us begins to fade. The more we lose sight of Him, the more we look in other places to find a trustworthy anchor that can stabilize us in the storms of life. In our search, we surprise ourselves by the way that we become faithful to risky people, ideas, hopes, or dreams that promise to nourish us in self-centered ways. In due time, however, they will fail us. That's when we come to remember His faithfulness to us. At the same time, we grieve over the shame of our unfaithfulness to Him.
 - c. The Lord meets our unfaithfulness with His faithfulness to forgive us. When we turn to Him and agree with Him about our misplaced faithfulness, we're graced by His eagerness to restore us in our relationship with Him (Heb. 12:4-12). We serve a gracious God!

Conclusion

Like God's people in Ezekiel's day, we may have drifted away from the Lord. Now we may be wondering if we have gone too far. He has not forgotten us. In fact, He's at work in our lives to help us remember Him so we can return to Him. He's ready to forgive us, so we must not wait any longer. Turn to Him.

You may never have given your life to Him. Until now you thought that He would never forgive somebody like you. Now you know that He's faithful to forgive you and give you new life in Christ, turn to Him.

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