

## **DISAPPOINTED ALREADY?**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Last week we spoke about re-visiting our strategies for the New Year to align the with God's word so that we can experience success.

But new year is also a time when one will often hear people saying, "good riddance to the old year, I hope the new year will be better!"

What happens when your new year doesn't start off with a bang? What happens if the new year has brought with it challenges and problems and disappointments? I know of some of people in our congregation who haven't had such a good start to 2020. Can I ask you today, even though this year is just beginning, "are you disappointed already?"

Our circumstances may have gone wrong, the new year may not have brought all we hoped it would and we may be already be disappointed. Know this, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and He will never disappoint you! If you are feeling disappointed already, it's time to do what we always do... Trust God no matter what! We serve a faithful God, He knows what we are going through and having faith in Jesus will see us through.

Last year I began teaching from the Gospels. This morning, I want to continue by sharing four faith principles we find in the Gospels that will help us find godly perspective about the disappointments and trials we are experiencing today and bring us to a victorious place in Christ where our hope is no longer in what the year 2020 will bring us, but rather in the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ, the One who will never let us down.

### **MESSAGE**

What is disappointment? Disappointment is defined as "*sadness or displeasure caused by the non-fulfilment of one's hopes or expectations*".

**Oswald Smith** The year was 1920. The scene was the examining board for selecting missionaries. Standing before the board was a young man named Oswald Smith. One dream dominated his heart. He wanted to be a missionary. Over and over again, he prayed, "Lord, I want to go as a missionary for you. Open a door of service for me." Now, at last, his prayer would be answered. When the examination was over, the board turned Oswald Smith down. He did not meet their qualifications. He failed the test. In His desire to serve God, he was served up a great disappointment.

You may be experiencing different kinds of disappointments:

- Some may have been hoping to be employed as we began 2020.
- Others may have been hoping for healing and health in your body and you're still struggling with illness.

- Or you may have been hoping for a better year financially, and you have incurred unexpected costs which have increased financial pressures.

There are many scenarios we may be facing today, each resulting in disappointment. I remind you today of the famous words of Jeremiah 29:11

**Jeremiah 29:11** (NLT) For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

No matter the disappointment, know that God still has good plans, a future and a hope for you. Let's start looking at those principles from the Gospels.

## 1. GOD KNOWS

As much as we would love life to be plain sailing, with every day carefree and wonderful, that's not the world we live in. Jesus warned us:

**John 16:33** (NLT) I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

- On earth we will have MANY trials and sorrows or tribulation – it simply is what it is.
- But Jesus encouraged them – "Take heart, I have overcome the world". "If I have overcome, you can too, your victory is in Me".

**Matthew 6:8b** (NLT) "for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!"

- There is nothing in our lives hidden from God intimately knows everything about us.

In Psalm 139 we read that even if we were to descend into hell, (or at least if it feels as if that's where we are), God is with us. He knows where we are at and He is ready to meet us in our need.

***Don't feel alone, don't feel abandoned, your God knows where you are at right now and He loves you. He can turn that disappointment around in a flash!***

## 2. JESUS HAS COMPASSION ON US

**Luke 7:11-13** Soon afterward Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. 12 A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said.

Even when it seems as though all hope is lost, we can rely on Christ's compassion. **1 Peter 5:7** encourages us to cast all our worries and cares on Jesus because He cares for us. Jesus sees us in our anguish and our struggle and His compassionate response to us is, "Don't cry".

**Luke 7:14-15** Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, get up." 15 Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

***Are you disappointed because you think it's too late? Do you think God can't raise the dead? Do you think He doesn't care? He cares and He has compassion! Lazarus had been dead for four days and Jesus still raised him. It's time to trust Jesus to speak into the tomb of despair you're dealing with to call your "Lazarus" to come forth!***

### **3. HAVE PERSISTENT FAITH**

In Mark chapter 5 we read about Jairus daughter who was very ill. Jesus was walking to Jairus' house and the woman with the issue of blood pushed through the crowd to come and touch Jesus garment.

This woman had persistent faith:

- She was transgressing the Law by coming out in public.
- She had tried and tried to get well, having spent all her money on doctors and had actually got worse.
- She must have experienced extreme disappointment!
- But she never gave up!
- And she received her healing because she had persistent faith!

Jesus also taught us to pray and never give up!

**Luke 18:1** (NLT) One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

Then he told the parable of the persistent widow and the judge. She never gave up until she got what she needed!

**Luke 18:7b** (NLT) Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

Jesus pointed out that Father God, the Just Judge loves us, and He will answer our persistent prayers.

**Matthew 7:7 (NLT)** "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

***Have you been asking God for something and not yet had the answer? Don't allow disappointment to stop you! Never give up, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY. Our God keeps His word and He said if we keep asking, and we ask correctly, He will answer.***

#### **4. TRUST IN GOD'S LOVE!**

**Matthew 7:11** (NKJV) If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

**James 1:17** (NKJV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Jesus said we must ask, seek and knock and keep on doing so. Father God will give us what we need. He loves to bless His children with good things! There is no shadow of turning with Him, He doesn't change. He still answers prayer today and He loves us and wants to give us good and perfect gifts!

***Don't allow disappointment to prevent you from trusting God. He always answers, not necessarily in our time, but in His. We have a good, good Father and He always gives us what is good. Have faith in Him. He is trustworthy and He will never fail us!***

#### **CONCLUSION**

Earlier, I gave an example of Oswald Smith, the man who 100 years ago was disappointed by his failing to be selected as a missionary. Let me complete that story now: Oswald Smith had set his direction, but now life gave him a detour. What would he do? As Oswald Smith prayed, God planted another idea in his heart. If he could not go as a missionary, he would build a church which could send out missionaries. And that is what he did. Oswald Smith pastored The People's Church in Toronto, Canada, which sent out more missionaries than any other church at that time. Oswald Smith brought God into the situation, and God transformed his disappointment into a major success for both Oswald Smith and for the Kingdom of God.

We don't have to look to the new year for our hope, we don't need to look to our job, our family, our bank account or anywhere else to find hope and overcome disappointment. The only place we need to look is to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour!

This morning we have heard of four simple truths from the Gospel which we can use to deal with our disappointments:

1. Realise that God knows about our circumstances.
2. Know that Jesus has compassion upon us and will help.
3. Have persistent faith, don't give up.

#### 4. Trust in God's love.

We may be facing disappointments, failures, trials and challenges but God remains on our side. Our hope must remain in Him. He will turn our disappointments into amazing victories if we are willing to keep our hope and our faith focused in Him.