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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 23, 2022 - The Justice and Mercy of the Cross

AUGUST 23RD 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 23, 2022 - The Justice and Mercy of the Cross

[Romans 3:23-27](#)

If the heavenly Father is good and loving, why would He allow His Son to be crucified? From our perspective, there is nothing loving in this scene.

To grasp what happened at the cross, we must first understand that the Lord is righteous and just. He does what is right and never contradicts His Word. On the other hand, mankind is sinful and deserving of punishment. God couldn't simply forgive us, because He would then cease to be just—and justice requires a penalty for sin. Either the Lord had to condemn us all to suffer His wrath, or He needed a plan that would satisfy His justice and allow His mercy.

Before the foundation of the world, the Lord had such a plan in place ([Revelation 13:8](#)). Jesus came to earth to be our sin bearer, and the Father placed our guilt and punishment on Him. Because the Savior's payment satisfied justice, sinful man could be declared righteous.

When we trust in Christ and acknowledge that His payment was made on our behalf, we are forgiven of our sins and blessed with salvation. God's perfect Son was the only One who qualified to be our substitute, and Jesus did it all willingly. Through an act that appeared cruel and hateful, God's goodness and love was revealed to the world.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, August 22, 2022 - Saying Yes (When We Want to Say No)

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[Jonah 3:1-10](#); [Jonah 4:1-11](#)

The book of Jonah doesn't end the way we might expect. From the belly of a fish, Jonah recommitted himself to the Lord's purpose. But later, he admitted he didn't want the job—and the Lord chastised his selfishness. You see, Jonah was sent to the Ninevites, who were a threat to the Jewish people. The reluctant prophet was afraid that if these enemies repented, his merciful God would not destroy them. Jonah confessed he wanted to see the Ninevites wiped out: "Therefore in order to forestall [their salvation] I fled to Tarshish" (Jonah 4:2 NASB 1995).

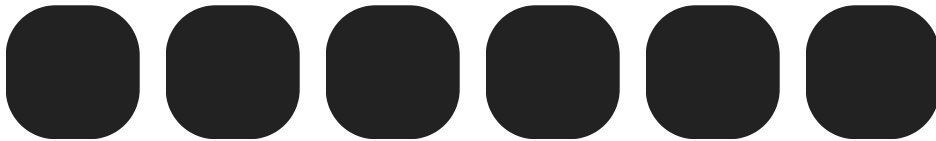
Sometimes we resist God's will because we dislike the probable outcome of obedience. Or like Jonah, we focus on our own desires and comfort and lose sight of what's really important. But our feelings about what might happen are not a reason to resist God's plan. If the Lord calls us to act, He will take care of the results. Our job is to obey.

What selfish desire is keeping you from obeying the Lord? Maybe you are too angry with your spouse to work on your marriage or too hurt to welcome back a repentant friend. But Christians are not to be ruled by feelings. Obedience is what's required, and its blessings may surprise you.

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Daily Devotional - Friday, August 19, 2022 -The Danger of Disobedience

AUGUST 19TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, August 19, 2022 -The Danger of Disobedience

1 Samuel 13:5-14

We may be tempted to think that disobedience in a small matter really won't affect us too much. Surely God isn't going to be bothered by something so inconsequential, especially if our motives are good. But in reality, we never have good motives for any act of disobedience, and the consequences aren't lessened by our attempt to diminish its size.

King Saul didn't want to go to battle until Samuel was there to offer the burnt sacrifice. But when the prophet didn't arrive on time and the army was beginning to desert, fear made Saul impatient. So he handled the offering himself, attempting to get God's blessing by disobediently usurping the role of the priest. When confronted by Samuel, the king tried to justify his actions.

What Saul saw as a small, necessary disobedience, God viewed as a serious act of rebellion. As a result, Saul's kingdom would end and the Lord would one day appoint someone else to Israel's throne.

Are there any "small disobediences" in your life that you're trying to justify? It could be something you've done or perhaps something you've refused to do. The only solution for any act of disobedience is to confess and repent.

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, August 17, 2022 -The Power of Persistence

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[Hebrews 12:1-3](#)

“I quit.” We generally say this when a relationship, job, or the like becomes so stressful that we don’t think we can continue. Sometimes these words are even spoken to God when the demands seem too great, the cost too high, or the obstacles too daunting.

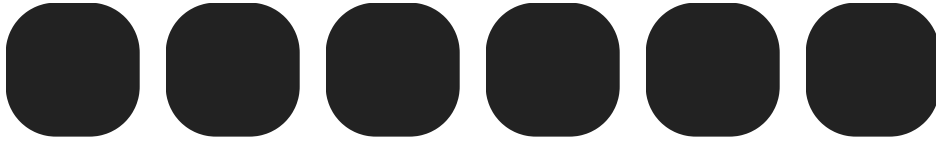
But even in discouraging times, God has made a provision for our endurance. We have the witness of believers who’ve gone before us—especially the ones whose stories are recorded in Scripture. And, of course, our ultimate example is Jesus Christ. He endured the cross not only to save us but also to encourage us not to grow weary and lose heart.

Troubles abound in this sin-wracked world, but God says we’re blessed when we persevere under trials ([James 1:12](#)). In order to endure, we must rid ourselves of sin and obstacles to our spiritual progress. Then we can grow in Christlikeness and usefulness to the Lord.

When we consider giving up, we’re focusing on ourselves instead of on our Savior, who’s provided everything we need to persevere. The desire and power to keep going are from God, not from self-will and determination. Human efforts may fail us, but the Lord never will.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, August 16, 2022 - Prevailing Faith

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[Romans 4:13-25](#)

How confident are you that God will fulfill His promises? So often we face situations that seem to prove that the Lord has let us down. This is the case especially when we've waited a long time without a glimmer of change. Sometimes we come to this conclusion because we've set our expectations on the wrong things. But there are also times when the Lord takes us on a long journey of perseverance before His promises come to pass.

That was definitely the case with Abraham. The Lord promised to make him a great nation with descendants beyond number, but he remained childless for many years until his wife Sarah was

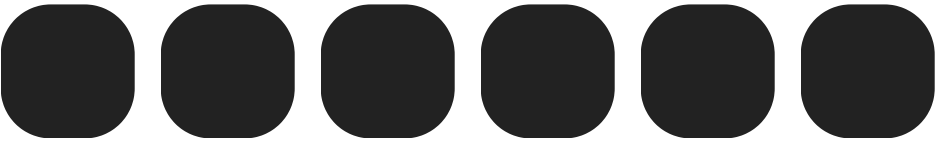
well past childbearing age. But as Abraham contemplated the physical impossibility of the situation, his faith in God’s promise grew stronger, not weaker. He could see that the Lord would be glorified even more when the promise came to pass in a humanly impossible situation.

Is there an area in your life where you need prevailing faith to persevere despite seeming impossibility? Be assured that “the word of our God stands forever” ([Isaiah 40:8](#)). Whatever God has promised, He will do—even if you never see the outcome in your lifetime ([Hebrews 11:13](#)).

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