

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of March 20th, 2022

Sermon Series: Guest Speaker

Sermon: Drive Them Birds Away (Genesis 15:1-17)

Speaker: Pastor Brian Jarrett

Icebreaker

- What is your favorite bird of Springtime, and is it still your favorite when it poops on your freshly washed car?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

I. Fear Not (Genesis 15:1 - After these things the word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision: "Fear not, Abraham, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.")

Think of a time in your life when it seemed that God had forgotten about you. Maybe you were being attacked at work, school, or in your personal life. Despite the way you felt at the time, can you see where God was there and still is today?

Sometimes we need to wait on God's timing. Meanwhile, we must wait and use God as our shield while we wait for God's reward. How can you use God as a shield to protect you from the world today, while you are waiting on God's timing and will?

II. Abraham Doubts God (Genesis 15:8 - But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?")

Abraham doubted himself and he questioned God. We have all done this at some point in our lives. When did you doubt yourself? When did you question God?

It is OK to question God, as long as we listen to His response and are obedient. Think of a time when you asked God why He chose to allow something to occur. What was His response?

Is something attacking you or someone you love? Are you fighting it alone or are you trusting God?

Take a moment to look up some Scriptural examples of when God is with us. When in your life has God surprised you with His faithfulness?

III. God enters into a Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15:18 - On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram...)

God offered Abraham a covenant with Him -- a legally binding contract that assured Abraham that God would fulfill His promise. God made us all a promise in His New Covenant (JER 31:31-34). How does it make you feel to know that God has promised to pay the cost of our sin and will honor His covenant with us?

What are the promises God makes to us? (The Bible is full of them. Look some up!) Are you trusting that God will honor His promises?

Praying in declaration of God's power over all is a powerful tool we can use to fight the things that attack us daily. Through that, we can declare God's power and confirm his promises to us. What are some things you can declare in prayer that God has promised you? (God's blessings and favor, His faithfulness, His grace and strength, etc.)

IV. Drive the Birds Away (Genesis 15:11)

Jesus was anointed with the power to break the chains of sin. Using His name, we have the same power to drive the scavenging birds away just like Abraham. What are you facing today that would be easier if you responded in Jesus' name?

Phil 2:10 says "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth." His word is sufficient to fight every evil in the world. What evil are you facing today? How could you put more trust in God's name to help drive that evil away from your life?

We all run into circumstances where the birds need to be driven away. When that happens, are you the little boy who taunted the rooster into attacking him, or are you the grandmother who knocks the rooster down with a broom and drives him away for good?

Did you recognize that the boy brought on the rooster's attack through his previous actions, just like the way we bring on attacks from the enemy through our own habitual sin? How can you change your own behavior (avoiding the things that lead us to sin and asking God for His power over it), and how will that change the power sin has over you?

The name of God is a powerful tool for fighting evil in our lives. What names for God can we use when praying that can be used to invoke His power over evil?

Act On It

Encourage: Spend some time in the Bible. Look up God's names and His promises, and know how you can use them to speak with His authority.

Ask: Ask the Lord to speak His will in your life and how you can deal with difficult people or situations that attack you. Pray for His wisdom with these issues, and ask Him to give you the strength to handle them as He would have you.

Challenge: Find someone in your life who is being attacked by the enemy. Pray intentionally and with purpose for this person. Pray that God will give them strength and wisdom in this time of difficulty, and know that He will do so as He so wills. Set aside a set time for this prayer each day. Set an alarm on your phone and stop whatever it is you're doing to pray for this person. At the end of the week, check in with them and see what God has done.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, thank you for allowing us to gather and learn from you today. Thank you for reminding us that you have made promises that you will always keep. Give us the faith to know that you will always be there and that you will always be faithful. Father, protect us from the enemy who seeks to attack us. Help us to know you are there, and remind us that we can defeat any enemy as long as we trust in you and your name. You are in control. Fill our minds and hearts with peace so we can keep spreading the Good News and advancing the Kingdom. Amen.