
The Promise: Absolute Regardless of Sin

Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, “O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all.”

But the LORD said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.”

God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.’” Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

So the LORD said to Moses, “Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land.” But Moses said to the LORD, “Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?” But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt. (Exodus 5:22-6:13)

Sermon Outline:

- I. Of Others
 - A. I Will
 - B. I Can't
 - C. I Did
- II. Of Your Own
 - A. Idolatry
 - B. Exile

Discussion Questions

1. What reason was given for which we can trust God's promises?
2. What contributed to the Israelites' inability to believe Moses? What circumstances led to this?

3. How did John Calvin's definition of faith connect faith and love?
4. What three things do the seven "I will" statements in Exodus 6:1-13 tell us that God does for his people?
5. We are sometimes guilty of focusing more on the quality or measure of our faith than on the object of our faith and the steadfastness of God's love. Is this something you struggle with personally? How does God's love free us from such thinking?
6. In Exodus 34:6-7, God is described as "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." Is this the way you tend to view God? If not, what other ideas of God do you tend to have?
7. How does Jesus deal with our sin?

Going Deeper

1. Pastor Robertson explained two different approaches to dealing with pain, suffering, and being sinned against in our lives. On the one hand, we may either blame ourselves or somehow convince ourselves to "get over it" before we've actually dealt with it adequately. On the other hand, we allow God to "love us through it." That is, we adequately deal with the pain we're experiencing and rest in God's love to bring us through it. Which approach do you tend to take when dealing with pain, suffering, or being sinned against in your life? How can you practically rest in God's love to restore you? What practical means of grace were mentioned in the sermon?
2. Are you tempted to pull away from God because of certain sins in your life? What can you learn from the way God dealt with the people of Israel when they created a golden calf to worship as an idol (Ex. 32-34)? What does this tell you about God's love? What is the best thing you can do when you feel the guilt and shame of your sin?