



Calvary of Albuquerque

Promises, Promises! - John 14:19-26

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Someone once mused, "Promises may get friends, but it's performance that keeps them." No wonder God has so many friends! He makes promises and keeps them. On this final night that Jesus spent with His friends, as both sorrow and confusion assailed them, Jesus made several promises that would sustain them in the days, months, and years ahead. What about you? Will you dare to trust the promises of God? It's the only way to see if they really work.

OUTLINE

- I. The Promise of a Supernatural Life (v. 19)
- II. The Promise of a Supernatural Knowledge (v. 20)
- III. The Promise of a Supernatural Presence (vv. 21-24)
- IV. The Promise of a Supernatural Revelation (vv. 25-26)



Pondering the Principles:

1. Of all the promises Jesus made in these verses, which one means the most to you? Why? How have you seen that promise fulfilled?
2. How do you personally convert knowledge about God into personal knowledge of God?
3. In what ways do you make God feel at home inside you? (Begin with your thoughts, then your motives, then your words and your actions.)

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. We live our lives by promises
 1. When promises are broken, disappointment follows
 2. A promise is only as good as the person who makes the promise
 - a. Reliable person—reliable promise
 - b. Unreliable person—unreliable promise
 - B. God makes lots of promises in the Bible
 1. 31,173 verses in the Old and New Testaments
 2. 7, 487 promises of God to man in the Bible according to Everett Storms as cited by *Time Magazine*
 3. "Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the LORD your God has come true. Not a single one has failed!" (Joshua 23:14 NLT)
 4. "Exceedingly great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4)
 - C. What do you do with the promises of God?
 1. Underline them?
 2. Memorize them?
 3. Exegete them?
 4. Highest and best: Live by them!
 5. Hymn: *Standing on the Promises of God*
 6. Are you standing on or creeping on the promises?
 7. Are you sitting on the premises?
 - D. Jesus made many promises during the Upper Room Discourse
 1. "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2)
 2. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father." (John 14:12)
 3. "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever" (John 14:16)
- II. The Promise of a Supernatural Life (v. 19)
 - A. In a few hours Jesus crucified—unbelieving world will never see Him again
 1. He would not appear to the world, only to His disciples
 2. When they see him they have visible proof: As He resurrected they too will be resurrected
 - B. Not just quantity of life, quality of life

1. A new level of life you've never experienced before, because of the indwelling Holy Spirit
 2. There is a difference between existing and living
 - a. Some exist: jog, work, food, friends, things, but not really living
 - b. William Marston, Harvard trained psychologist, asked 3,000 people: What do you have to live for? 94% were enduring the present while waiting for the future
 3. Dead men walking
 - a. "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins," (Ephesians 2:1)
 - b. All dead, spiritually speaking
- C. Biblical words for "life"
1. Βίος; bios -physical life (biology)
 - a. Outward here and now
 - b. Most people spend most of their time and most of their energy on
 - c. "The cares and riches and pleasures of this life." (Luke 8:14)
 - d. When asked if they could change one thing about life, almost no one said character or personality. Most said outward appearance.
 2. Ψυχή; psuché - the soul, life (psyche, psychology)
 - a. Inward life; thought process
 - b. "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)
 - c. It is possible to have physical life and psychological life yet still be dead
 3. Ζωή; zóé - life, physical and spiritual
 - a. Shifts focus from earth to eternity
 - b. Used 143 times in the Bible
 - c. Not merely ongoing life that goes on forever; everyone has that
 - d. Quality of life
 - e. "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

III. The Promise of a Supernatural Knowledge (v. 20)

- A. Jesus was telling His worried disciples that His death would not end their relationship
 1. Their communion is permanent
 2. They are confused at the time, but they will know it
- B. Not book knowledge; know and understand by experience
 1. "After the resurrection, when you are really alive, you will know just how close we really are."
 2. The resurrection brought sudden realization to the disciples of who Jesus was
- C. For 3.5 years, they were with Him
 1. Who is He?
 2. After He is raised from the dead and ascends, they realize He is God
 - a. "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life" (1 John 1:1)
 - b. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (John 14:6)
 - i. Anyone can make the statement
 - ii. He validates his claim by His deeds
 - iii. Separates Jesus from all others
- D. "On that day" the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon them
- E. Only when God puts supernatural life within us are our spiritual eyes opened
 1. We cannot apprehend certain things unless God does a supernatural work within our lives
 2. The disciples came alive with boldness and power because of this knowledge
 3. "And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!'" (John 20:28)
 4. In a *Peanuts* cartoon strip Lucy and Linus are staring out the window, watching it rain. Lucy: "Boy! Look at it pour. What if it floods the whole world?" Linus: "It won't. In Genesis 9, God promised Noah that would never happen again. The sign of that promise is the rainbow." Lucy, turning back to the window with a big smile: "You've taken a great load off my mind." Linus: "Sound theology has a way of doing that."
 5. We read God's Word and He confirms things to our hearts
 6. He gives understanding and brings a sense of security; something the most brilliant, trained minds can never know unless they experience it.

IV. The Promise of a Supernatural Presence (vv. 21-24)

- A. Come inside that person and be at home in him
- B. Manifest- to show, to exhibit, to disclose, to appear
- C. Judas: Why just to the disciples?
 1. The disciples are all wondering about the immediate, earthly, Messianic kingdom
 2. Jesus answers with condition for anyone to experience the presence of God: obedience to God
 - a. He will not reveal Himself to those who refuse to love Him and obey Him
 - b. We show our love by our obedience
 - c. We will never enjoy the fullness of Christian life or the presence of God unless we conform to Him
 - d. It is possible to be saved, but not satisfied
 - e. "This manifestation of Christ is made only to the one who really loves Him, and the proof of love to Him is not by emotional displays but by submission to His will."—Arthur W. Pink

V. The Promise of a Supernatural Revelation (vv. 25-26)

- A. Christ had already promised the Holy Spirit
 1. Another Helper
 2. Another Counselor
 3. Another Comforter

B. Now, Jesus promises another Teacher, a Reminder

1. Up to this point Jesus was the teacher
2. The disciples were the students; not a good track record:
 - a. "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!' But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.'" (Matthew 16:21-23)
 - b. "Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here;'" (Matthew 17:4)
 - c. "Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with Him.'" (John 11:16)
 - d. "And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, 'Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?'" (Luke 9:54)
3. After the resurrection, the disciples graduate: "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;" (Acts 2:22-23)

C. How is it possible that 12 uneducated fisherman remember and record 3.5 years of activity with detail? The Holy Spirit.

VI. Application

- A. How's my life? Am I existing or living? If just existing, why? How can I be raised to life?
- B. How's my knowledge? Am I experiencing what I know.
- C. How's my intimacy with Jesus Christ? Do I live in a way to make Him comfortable where I take Him?
- D. How's my relationship with the Holy Spirit? Am I learning from Him myself?
- E. Anne Landers' column: "My uncle was the tightest man I've ever known. All his life, every time he got paid he took \$20 out of his paycheck & put it under his mattress. Then he got sick & was about to die. As he was dying, he said to his wife, 'I want you to promise me one thing.' 'Promise what?' she asked. 'I want you to promise me that when I'm dead you'll take my money from under the mattress and put it in my casket so that I can take it all with me.'" The girl's letter went on with the story. "He died, and his wife kept her promise. She went in and got all that money the day he died and went to the bank and deposited it, and wrote out a check & put it in his casket."
 1. A dead person can't cash a check
 2. A spiritually dead person can't cash in on the promises of God

Greek Terms: *Bíos*; *bios* -physical life; *Ψυχή*; *psuché* - the soul, life; *Ζωή*; *zōé* - life, physical and spiritual

Publications Referenced: *Time Magazine*, December 24, 1956; "Religion: Promises;" *Standing on the Promises of God*, by R. Kelso Carter;

Peanuts, by Charles Schultz; Anne Landers

Figures Referenced: Everett Storms; William Marston; Arthur W. Pink

Cross References: Joshua 23:14; Matthew 10:39; Matthew 16:21-23; Matthew 17:4; Luke 8:14; Luke 9:54; John 10:10; John 14:2; John 14:6; John 14:12; John 14:16; John 20:28; Acts 2:22-23; Ephesians 2:1; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 1:1