



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Examining the text & our hearts:

Let's talk first about delivering on our promises:

- How do you feel when someone over promises & under delivers? EG: "stretch" goals (politicians)
- How do you feel when someone under promises & over delivers?
- How do you feel when someone promises & delivers on their promise? Person of their word, of integrity, & true to their commitments -they can be trusted -it strengthens your future relationship with them

Did Jesus over promise, under promise, or simply promise? Let's follow the storyline to first see what Jesus promised at the cross

1. Jesus' Words of Life on the Cross (Luke 23:34, 43; John 19:30)

a. Context

- a. Arrested by the Sanhedrin -Jewish religious authorities (Lk. 23:1-3)
- b. Taken to Pontius Pilate (Roman governor over Judea) & accused (Lk. 23:4, 13-15, 22)
- c. Pilate eventually gives in to the Jewish authorities & hands Jesus over to be crucified (Lk. 23:25)
- d. Jesus is crucified between two criminals as he is scoffed at, mocked & insulted (Lk. 23:32)

b. Jesus' words on the cross

- a. "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." (Lk. 23:34)
- a. "In Jesus there was no resentment; no anger, no lurking desire for punishment upon those who were mistreating him." (G. Campbell Morgan, Searchlights from the Word, p. 269)
- b. "Jesus fulfills his own teaching about loving one's enemies (Lk. 6:35) & highlights the fact that his death was providing the very basis upon which those who crucified him could be forgiven." (ESV Study Bible)
- c. 'They know not what they do' does not absolve either the Jews or the Romans of their responsibility in Jesus' death, but it shows that they did not fully understand the horrible evil that they were doing in crucifying the 'Holy & Righteous One' (Acts 3:14) who was both the true Messiah & the Son of God." (ESV Study Bible)

- d. “[T]he amazing initial (and enduring) reflex of Jesus’ crucified heart was to forgive. This is amazing, astounding grace!”(R. Kent Hughes, Preaching The Word: Luke, p. 836)
- b. “Truly I say, today you will be with me in paradise.”(Lk. 23:43)
 - a. “This was an astounding promise to the crucified criminal, made even more so by its immediacy. The thief had asked that he would be granted life at Jesus’ appearing to establish the kingdom. Jesus’ answer promised immediate entry into Paradise on the very day of the crucifixion! And to compound the astonishing immediacy, Jesus told the wretch, ‘Today you will be with me’—‘You will be with me, close by me!’ Jesus gave the wretched thief life!”(R. Kent Hughes, Preaching The Word: Luke, p. 843)
- c. “It is finished!”(Jn. 19:30)
 - a. All God’s work was completed (Jn. 4:34; 5:36; 17:4)
 - a. “‘It is finished’ proclaims that all the work the Father had sent [Jesus] to accomplish (4:34; 9:4) was now completed, particularly his work of bearing the penalty for sins. This means there was no more penalty left to be paid for sins, for all Jesus’ suffering was “finished.” (ESV Study Bible)
 - b. A triumphant cry
 - a. “This is not the moan of the defeated, nor the sigh of patient resignation. It is the triumphant recognition that he has now fully accomplished the work he came to do.”(Leon Morris)
 - b. He bowed his head & died -His body was taken down, buried in a tomb & stone rolled in front

2. Words of Life at the Empty Tomb (Lk. 24:1-8)

- a. Context
 - a. Earlier Jesus forecasted his death & promised he’d be raised on the third day (Lk. 9:22; 18:33)
 - b. Women came early to the tomb to properly care for Jesus’ body (spices) (24:1)
 - c. Stone was rolled away from in front of the tomb (24:2)
- b. Words of life spoken at the empty tomb
 - a. “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”(v. 5)
 - b. “He is not here, he has been risen.”(v. 6a; Acts 2:22-24a)
 - a. “Luke means that Jesus has been raised by God(Acts 3:15; 4:10) & not by his own power.” (Craig Evans, Understanding the Bible: Luke, p. 325)
 - b. “The verb used in ‘has risen’ is an aorist passive and implies that God is responsible for Jesus’ return to life. God has intervened, just as Jesus promised. ‘Remember how he told you, while he was with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again (9:22, 44; 13:3; 17:25; 18:32-33; 22:37).’ (Darrell L. Bock, NIV Application Commentary: Luke, pp. 606-7)

3. Jesus Delivered On His Promises

- a. God validates Jesus’ promise of forgiveness by raising him from the grave -all UR sin-debt is gone -every barrier & separation between us & God is gone
- b. Jesus’ resurrection assures us that our future is secure & his promised presence is ours going forward
- c. The empty tomb confirms that God was satisfied with everything that Jesus did -nothing is left to be done -we know that God accepts us because he raised Jesus from the dead