

TRUST – THE HEART OF THE MATTER

12 NOVEMBER 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

Topic came about through the things God has been teaching me over the last few months...

- My Personal Bible studies on Trust
- Teen Devo's – Why people don't believe in God
- Teen Bible Studies – The fight to see God
- Sermons like Flourish – Heart Character and Plan.

2. PRAYER

3. MY STORY

A long time ago I had my little heart broken.

- Before I met Karen - I was dating a girl – and we where dating for four long years.
- One weekend we agreed to spend some time with our friends.
- That Friday night I saw the girl I was dating with another guy.
- I had not expected this at all – so it devastated my 22 year old heart

AND THAT'S WHEN SOMETHING IN MY HEART CHANGED.

Before this episode - I trusted **everyone I met 100%** when I met them, and the trust would drop every time they disappointed me BUT... **After that** - I refused to trust anyone – I would **start off having 0%** trust and the person would have to prove himself or herself to me and so I would add onto the 0% trust.

When I met Karen some years after that, I was still living with a HARD HEART and she struggled to get me to trust her.

DISCLAIMER:

I've learned since becoming a Disciple, that is not Godly:
If you live not trusting people there is no room for

- Grace and
- Forgiveness

4. DEFINITION

What is Trust?

Dictionary Definition:

TRUST:

“Assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something.” – Merriam-Webster Dictionary

5. KEY VERSE

So, what does “Trust in God” look like?

Please turn your bibles to **Jeremiah 17:5-8**

Jeremiah 17:5-8

5 This is what the Lord says: “Cursed is the one who **trusts in man**, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. **6** That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

7 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. **8** They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when **heat** comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and **never fails to bear fruit.**”

You have a choice here – You can either:

Trust in man and become like a:

- Bush in the Wastelands
- See “No prosperity” – KJV version “Shall not see when good cometh”
- Will dwell in Parched (Dried out) places of the desert;
- In a salt land where no one lives

Which sounds very **depressing and lonely**.

Or you could... **TRUST IN GOD**

Show image and text below on one slide:



Trust God - Analogy:

- TREE – You
- WATER/STREAM – God and His Provision
- ROOTS – Our reaching for God
- HEAT – Problems or Negative news
- YEAR OF DROUGHT – On-going problems/negative news
- GREEN LEAVES & FRUIT – What is displayed in our lives

This analogy points out two requirements from us as the tree, though:

The tree needs to:

1. Be planted near the water source
2. Stretch it's roots out to be closer to it's water source.

Questions:

1. Are you planted near the stream;
2. Are your roots pressing towards God - the source of your strength OR are you pressing towards someone/something else OR are you just content with where you at?
3. Where is your trust? – Is it in MAN, YOURSELF or GOD

Let's dig deeper into what else trust requires by looking at...

Three Old Testament Characters...

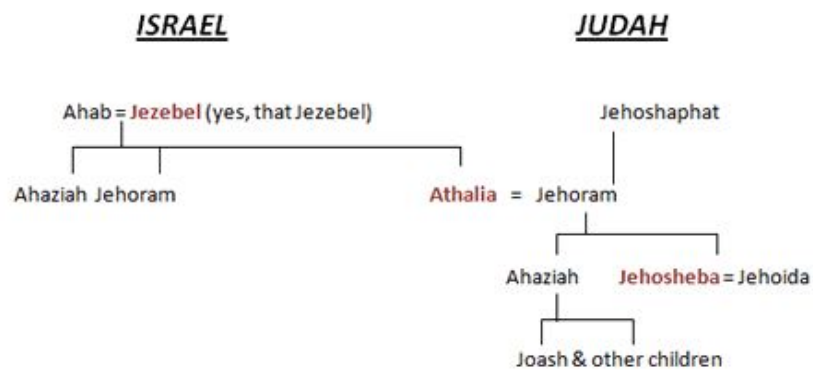
6. WHERE IS YOUR TRUST?

TRUSTING IN MAN

Old Testament character – King Joash

Before we read the relevant scripture, let just see where King Joash fits in, by looking at his family tree

(Show the following image on slide):



CONTEXT

- Joash was the son of was **Ah-ha-ziah** - A wicked king of Judea.
- Ah-ha-ziah was being counseled by his wicked mother **Ah-tha-liar**
- Joash father Ah-ha-ziah did what was evil in Lords sight and worshiped Ashrah poles and idols.
- Due to his wickedness Ah-ha-ziah was slain by Jeru, as per God's instructions
- **Ah-tha-liar** got angry (because her son was dead) so she had **all the seed of the royal house of Judah killed** and she reigned over Judah BUT
- Je-ho-sha-bath, Ath-a-liah's sister (together with her Priest husband, **Je-o-i-der**) stole Joash the baby, from amongst the kings sons and hid him for 6 years.
- In the 7th year Je-ho-i-da, the Chief preist gathered together some allies and they take down Ath-ha-liah and Joash becomes kings at the age of 7. He reigned for 40 years.
- Joash does well as king in the sight of God all the days of **Je-ho-ider** who advised him. They worked hard together to raise monies to restore the house of the Lord. Then Jehoida dies and things change...

2 CHRONICLES 24:17-25

17 After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and **he listened to them.** **18** They abandoned the temple of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger came on Judah and Jerusalem. **19** Although the Lord sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.

20 Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: 'Why do you disobey the Lord's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.'"

21 But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the Lord's temple. 22 King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, "May the Lord see this and call you to account."

Within a year –

- Joash was severely wounded in battle with Aram
- Killed in his bed by his officials.

JOASH TRUSTED PEOPLE –

- FROM TRUSTING JEHOIADA, HE IMMEDIATELY TRUSTED THE OFFICIALS OF JUDAH.
- ONCE JEHOIADA DIED, JOASH TRUST IN GOD DIED

THOUGHT:

Are you putting too much TRUST IN MAN –

If you are - you may find yourself disappointed – and become **like a bush in the wasteland - A Salt land where no one lives...** AS WAS WARNED IN OUR KEY SCRIPTURE JEREMIAH 17:5

It could be your:

- Spouse,
- Your disciplining partner,
- Your friend
- Even your boss,
- The church minister,
- Your Parents

TRUSTING IN YOURSELF

Old Testament characters - Hophni and Phinehas

1 SAMUEL 2:12-17

12 Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord. 13 Now it was the practice of the priests that, whenever any of the people offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand while the meat was being boiled 14 and would plunge the fork into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot. Whatever the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh.

15 But even before the fat was burned, the priest's servant (Hophni and Phinehas) would come and say to the person who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw."

16 If the person said to him, "Let the fat be burned first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force." 17 This sin was very great in the Lord's sight for they were treated the Lord's offering with contempt.

RESEARCH POINTS OUT THAT –

- This was for offering a **Peace offering**,
- The only offering that was **shared between God**,
- It became part of a Celebratory communal meal –
 - **God portion** was the:
 - kidney and
 - Lobe of the liver and
 - the fat of the innermost parts for the animal offering
 - Then **the priest** takes whatever comes up with the three pronged fork; and
 - **The person bringing the sacrifice** will take the rest and has to eat within 2 days

HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS SIN WAS:

- THEY WERE TAKING GOD'S PORTION (THE FAT)
- THEY WERE GOING TO THE HOUSE OF THE PERSON WHO WAS GOING TO MAKE THE SACRIFICE AND TAKING THE MEAT BEFORE IT WAS EVEN PUT OVER THE FIRE.

After being warned about his sons, Eli speaks to them... in verse 22

1 Samuel 2:22-25

22 Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they **slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting**. **23** So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. **24** No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the Lord's people is not good. **25** **If one person sins against another, God may mediate for the offender; but if anyone sins against the Lord, who will intercede for them?"** His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the Lord's will to put them to death.

Not good...

As was prophesized the end for this family was not good.

THE FAMILY DISASTER

1 SAMUEL 4:10-16

- They were put to death – and died on the same day as God told Eli it would happen (1 Samuel 2:34)
- When Eli heard the news he also died, on the same day by falling backwards from his seat and breaking his neck (1 Samuel 4:10-11)
- When Phineas wife heard the news she also died while giving birth to their son, ICABOD (which means "The Glory has departed")

ELI'S SONS TRUSTED IN THEMSELVES

- **ELI'S SONS HAD NO TRUST OR REGARD FOR GOD (1 Samuel 2:12)**
- **THEY DID NOT EVEN TRUST THEIR OWN FATHER**
- **THEY TRUSTED ONLY THEMSELVES AND HAD NO REGARD FOR ANYONE ELSE**

PROVERBS 3:5

"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he make your paths straight"

THOUGHTS:

ELI WAS THE CHIEF PRIEST

- The fact that **their father Eli was the chief priest**, leads us to assume that they knew that what they were doing was wrong.
- They didn't believe that there would be punishment for their actions.
Perhaps they didn't even believe God existed?

THIS IS A PRIDE ISSUE

Are you perhaps placing too much trust in yourself:

- Your abilities;
- Your position at work;
- Your Skills;
- Your financial stability

GET INPUT

Pride is not something that you can usually see yourself and thus you need ask someone else.

TRUSTING IN GOD

Old Testament character - Joshua

Introduce the well-known story of the 12 spies, one from each tribe:

- We all know the story in Numbers 13-14
- Joshua and Caleb came back with a positive report after spying out the Promised land, while
- The other 10 spies came back with a Victim mentality.

JOSHUA TRUSTED GOD: (NUMBERS 14:6-9)

NUMBERS 14:6-9

*6 But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey. 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, **and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them.**"*

HOW IS IT THAT JOSHUA AND CALEB TRUSTED...

EXODUS 33:7-11

*7 Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. 8 And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. 9 As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. 10 Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. 11 The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, **but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.***

THOUGHTS:

JOSHUA'S ROOTS STRETCHED OUT

JOSHUA stretched his roots towards God and wanted to spend as much time in Gods presence as possible.

JOSHUA' S HEART LONGED FOR GOD

This was a Worship matter

This was a Heart matter

You cannot trust with your heart, if you do not love with your whole heart

JOSHUA LED THE PEOPLE TO CANAAN

God saw this and he asked Joshua to lead the generation into the land of Canaan.

AS FOR "ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD"...

When Joshua was nearing the end of his life he

"exhorts the people of Israel **to serve the Lord only** and to put away **all forms of idolatry** and concludes with the infamous stance:

"...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15)

THAT STATEMENT CONFIRMS HIS TRUST IN GOD

7. MAKING IT PRACTICAL

1. FIND REST IN GOD'S PEACE

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is an amazing verse with so much in it.

Do not be anxious about ANYTHING, but IN EVERY situation

- *Prayer*
- *Petition;*
Definition of Petition: *“a formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority in respect of a particular cause.”*
- *With Thanksgiving present your requests*
(Be thankful when you present your requests – huh) –
Will make a lot more sense when we look at No 2 later...

The Peace of God is amazing – I'm sure some or perhaps all of you have experienced it.

LET'S MAKE IT PRACTICAL:

"Negative News" – Drawing on flipchart to illustrate

Example – Your wife knocked the car and comes to tell you and it's very bad...

*To a woman is **scratch on the bumper** is a scratched car –*

*To a man a scratch on the **bumper is an accident** because the bumper needs to be replaced.*

HEART-EMOTIONS: BRAIN-INTELLECT: ACTIONS-HANDS/MOUTH

1. MOST PEOPLE:

Hear negative news – From a source

TO THE BRAIN

- Think about it - You see the damage - Oh my word!

TO THE HEART

- Get emotional – ANGER

TO THE MOUTH/BODY

- Respond in anger/emotional - Are you crazy/blind OR You walk towards the damage and ignore your wife (out of anger)

2. ME:

- Hear negative news – From a source

TO THE MOUTH/BODY

- Respond in anger/emotional - Are you crazy/blind OR You walk towards the damage and ignore your wife (out of anger)

3. THE GODLY WAY:

- Hear negative news – From a source

TO THE BRAIN

- Take it through the GOD FILTER (Philippians – The Mind that is guarded with God peace)
- Think about it

TO THE HEART

- Take it through the GOD FILTER (Philippians – The Heart that is guarded with God peace)
- Reflect

TO THE MOUTH/BODY

- Respond in Godly way – no stressed but filled with Peace

IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY BUT WE NEED TO **TRAIN OURSELVES TO FILTER** ALL OUR DECISION THROUGH GOD'S WORD.

This comes through Pray, Petition, and Thanksgiving

2. GET GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

PSALM 147:5 *Our Lord is great, and rich in power; his understanding has no limitation.*

"I'm glad you asked" book by Dr. Ken Boa and Larry Moody
Book written to help disciples approach atheist and non-believers. Easy read and practical

"All Knowledge/My Knowledge" – Drawing on flipchart to illustrate

ALL KNOWLEDGE vs. YOUR KNOWLEDGE

HOW DO YOU VIEW THE PROBLEM:

*The 10 spies viewed the problem and viewed themselves and thought **"BIG PROBLEM"***

*Joshua & Caleb – Viewed the problem and viewed God and thought **"NO PROBLEM"***

We should view set backs as God shaping us and not as failures

GODS PURPOSE vs. MY PURPOSE

Gods Aim – To build Character.

My Aim – Avoid problems and escape the Negative news.

Book By Gary Thomas entitled
"Sacred marriage – What if God designed Marriage to Make us Holy more than to make us Happy"

3. TRUST IS AN ON-GOING DENIAL OF SELF

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

TRUST IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS ATTAINED ONCE AND FOR ALL – IT'S A WRESTLE

WE GROW IN TRUST – From HERE to THERE

Example of Elijah

ELIJAH FULL TRUST – (1 Kings 18:21)

Prophets of Baal - Sacrificing of the Bulls

- Water poured over 3 times – drenched the sacrifice, wood and even the trench –
- Complete confidence in God

Shortly after...

ELIJAH LOSES COMPLETE TRUST – (1 Kings 19:2)

Jezebel hears about what Elijah did and sends a messenger to tell him she is going to kill him

- Runs away afraid, into the desert
- Sits under tree and prays “I have had enough Lord, take my life”

THAT IS WHY OUR TRUST SHOULD BE ON GOD, THE ROCK

8. CONCLUSION

RECAP:

- YOU HAVE A CHOICE YOU CAN EITHER:
 - TRUST IN MAN
 - TRUST IN YOURSELF; OR
 - TRUST IN GOD
- TRUSTING IN MAN LEADS TO PARCHED PLACES IN THE DESERT, WHERE NO ONE LIVES WHILE TRUSTING IN GOD PRODUCES EVERGREEN LEAVES AND BOUNTIFUL FRUIT
- TRUSTING IN HARD TIMES REQUIRE PRAYER, PETITION WITH THANKSGIVING.
- WHEN FACING NEGATIVE NEWS ASK "WHAT IS GOD WANTING TO TEACH ME HERE?"
- UNDERSTAND THAT TRUST IS A WRESTLE AND REQUIRES INTENTIONAL GROWING
- TRUST DOESN'T HAPPEN IN THE HEAD BUT IN THE HEART

CLOSING QUOTE:

"Those who leave everything in God's hands will eventually see God's hands in everything" (Author unknown)