

Sunday Morning Message

August 30, 2020 (Edited from a message originally preached on October 23, 2011 and February 5, 2017)

God's Will - The Safest Place on Earth

Topic – The Will of God

Text – Jeremiah 42

Congregational Reading – Jeremiah 42:4 – 6

Introduction

Illustrate – Several years ago my hometown, Brick, NJ, was proclaimed to be the safest place in America.

Conversely – at that same time Camden, NJ had been at the top of just about every crime category in the country: Murder, Drugs, Theft

Back around 1995 or so, God led me to work as a youth pastor and bus worker at the Lighthouse Baptist Church in Gloucester City, NJ – right next door to Camden. Much of our ministry work took place in Camden.

In Camden, I personally witnessed:

- 1 People selling guns and drugs
- 2 Major drug bust on a street that we picked up on, where the criminals actually came back and attacked the police in order to recover their drugs, guns and money.
- 3 While picking up on a Sunday morning, I was within 30 yards of a shootout.
- 4 While trying to break up a fight between two teenage girls, I saw one of them break a Snapple bottle over the other one's head.

Camden and Gloucester City were very dangerous places; but, for my family they were the safest places on planet earth because Camden and Gloucester City were the will of God for our lives.

This morning, I want to speak to you for a few minutes about this subject:

The Safest Place on Earth

Introduction

Explain the context of chapter 42

This passage takes place at the time of the Babylonian captivity. King Nebuchadnezzar had taken most of the people of Jerusalem and Judaea into captivity into the land of Babylon. The King had left a very small remnant of impoverished people in the land.

The city of Jerusalem and the land of Judah had become a very lawless and dangerous place. In chapter 41, we read about a man named Ishmael who slew Gedaliah, the governor of the land of Judah who was placed there by King Nebuchadnezzar; and Ishmael then also slaughtered 70 other men who had come into the city of Mizpah on their way to bring offerings and incense to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. (Note – Mizpah was a few miles north of Jerusalem.)

Read and review chapter 42

In this chapter, God told his people that thought the land of Judah was a very impoverished and dangerous place, it was the place of God's will for the remaining Jews. In other words, God did not want them to move away.

Illustrate – living in Paradise, Texas – a place where you are really free. But, Paradise, TX is not the will of God for me; at least not at this time.

For God's people, in this particular time in history, the Land of Judah was:

I The Place of Security and Safety

David said:

"There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more

than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety."

(Psalm 4:6-8)

"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD."

(Proverbs 21:31)

II The Place of Success

Illustrate – Elijah – Brook Cherith – "I have instructed the Ravens to feed you there" (1 Kings 17)

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:7-8 KJV)

III The Place of Satisfaction

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." -

(John 10:10)

Practical Points:

Illustrate – Lee Roberson with Lou Rossi – "find the will of God and do it"

How Can I Live My Life Inside of the Perfect Will of God? How can I know the will of God and do the will of God?

1 The Will of God Is Discernible

God will never ask you to do something without making it clear to you that it is in fact His will.

It is revealed in the Word of God

*"For **this is the will of God**, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:" (1 Thessalonians 4:3)*

*"In every thing give thanks: for **this is the will of God** in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

*"For **so is the will of God**, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:" (1 Peter 2:15)*

It is perfected through a Walk with God

Walking with God means that you are daily in the Word and prayer.

Walking with God means that you are part of a New Testament Church, and you are attending the preaching and teaching of the Word of God; and you are serving God according to your gifts and level of growth.

So, when I am determining whether something is the will of God for my life, I first go to the Word of God to see if it is in accordance with Biblical principle; and then I pray about it to see if God gives me peace; and then I get some counsel from my pastor or some other godly man or woman in the church.

The will of God can be a principle

The will of God can be a purpose

The will of God can be a position in a local church

The will of God can be a profession

The will of God can be a place

The will of God can be a person

2 The Will of God is Doable

God will never ask you to do something that He will not equip you to do.

Need Money?

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." - (Philippians 4:19)

Need Strength?

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." - (Philippians 4:13)

Need wisdom?

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." - (James 1:5)

Need encouragement?

"And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD." - (1 Chronicles 28:20)

3 Will of God is Desirable

God will never ask you to do something that you would not enjoy and find fulfillment in. The will of God is your sweet spot.

Conclusion

*"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that **good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**" - (Romans 12:2)*

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." - (Hebrews 10:36)

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." - (1 John 2:17)

Have you found the wills of God for your life? Are you doing the will of God with your life?