
In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#39 in Series] (Numbers 26–36) *A Heart Turned Towards the Inheritance: Part 9, Reflecting God's Glorious Faithfulness* – Numbers 30

Sermon Outline – March 20, 2016

Children's Sermon: Copying Jesus

Ephesians 5:1–2

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, *a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God*.

What is Ephesians 4:32?

- According to Eph. 4:32, what did God do (that we are to imitate)?
- What example of love did Jesus give us to imitate? (Eph. 5:2)

Notes:

Today's Main Idea

Aim your life at showing off God's glory.

Two Main Themes of Numbers 30

- All Vows Should Be Kept without Delay
- A Faithful Head-of-household Could Establish or Oppose the Vows of His Daughters/Wives.

Key Idea #1

Our faithfulness to our word is a grateful response to and reflection of God's faithfulness.

Numbers 23:19 (Balaam)

¹⁹ God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. *Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*

Key Idea #2

(Faithful Fathers/Daughters & Husbands/Wives)

The authority in a covenant household is also a reflection of God's/Jesus' relationship with himself & his people.

Pursuit of Godliness

Pursing Christ-Likeness...

Hebrews 1:3a

He [Jesus] is *the radiance of the glory of God* and *the exact imprint of his nature...*

Keeping Our Word...Even when it Hurts

² *If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.*

Psalm 15:4b

...who swears to his own hurt and does not change...
(HCSB) ...who keeps his word whatever the cost...

This is a Picture of the Gospel!

Hebrews 6:17–19 (Cf. Mark 14:36)

¹⁷ So when *God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,* ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, *we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.* ¹⁹ *We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain...*

Trustworthiness Rather than Hasty Promises

Why do you usually say, "I promise..."?

Matthew 5:33–37

³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.*' ³⁴ But I say to you, **Do not take an oath at all**, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ *Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.*

Vows should not be used to prop up our untrustworthiness, but rather, as a means of honoring God's trustworthiness.

The Godliness of Faithful Covenant Roles

Ephesians 5:22–26 (This is also a Picture of the Gospel!)

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as ***Christ is the head of the church***, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as *the church submits to Christ*, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ ***Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her***, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...

Aiming Our Lives at God's Glory

Key Idea

A God-glorifying response to our salvation is to give ourselves to a whole-hearted imitation of Jesus.

Application Points:

- ✓ **Tell the truth/keep our word** for God's glory not our own (Boast only in Christ)
 - ✎ Keep your word given to your neighbor/co-worker etc. especially when it hurts...

Hebrews 12:1b–2

...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² ***looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith***, who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- ✎ Avoid hasty promises
- ✎ Tell the truth even on your taxes...

- ✓ **Embrace God's assigned gender roles** as another opportunity to display God's glory. (Jesus is our best picture of both submission and servant-leadership)

Ephesians 5:15–17

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- ✎ Keep your marriage vows:
 - Embrace submission to your own husband...
 - Embrace your leadership by loving your wife sacrificially...
 - **Get help:** The Excellent Husband; Other godly couples; pastoral counseling
- ✎ Joyfully submit to your eternal Husband...
 - Embrace submission to proper authority...
 - Embrace servant leadership...

Review Questions

Why do you think Jesus allows us to get into situations where obeying him hurts? In what way does this give us a good opportunity?

Why should all vows be kept without dragging our feet? What does this say about God/Jesus?

What are some ways a father/daughter relationship can tell the truth (or tell a lie) about God and his people?

What are some ways a husband/wife relationship can tell the truth (or tell a lie) about Jesus and his bride?