

Jessica Flores

Sermon Manuscript

CD601.NA-Proclamation and Communication

Introduction:

Presently the COVID-19 numbers are rising, and the government has been placing restrictions on the people. We are limited to where we can go, what we can do, how we are to socialize, and limitations are being put on businesses. We are in a difficult season. People are feeling lonely, depressed, anxious and fearful. How do we remain fearless in a time like this? For us to make it through this wilderness and make it into the promised land we will need to be fearless. The wilderness is this time of testing trials and persecution. The promised land is a place of security, abundance and God's provision.

When I think of what does it mean to be fearless? I think of my niece Sophia. Sophia was 2 years old when she visited my house for the first time. Usually when I spend time with Sophia, I am in her element, upstairs in her home with her mom and all that she considers safe. Sophia enters my home with apprehension, she does not enter right away, she lingers by the door, fearful because she does not know if it is safe in my home. I stand with Sophia reassuring her that she is in a safe place, but she is fearful and does not budge from the front door. Knowing that through that door she has access to go back to what was familiar and safe to her. Finally, Sophia realizes that she is with titi, I am titi. She realizes that titi, loves her and keeps her safe at which point she starts running, freely all around the house, exploring. She no longer was apprehensive and fearful because she trusted in the one who loved her, the one who would not leave her alone, the one who would not fail her, the one who was there to help her.

Jessica Flores

Sermon Manuscript

CD601.NA-Proclamation and Communication

I just told you what fearless looks like to me. It is childlike dependence, faith and trust in the one who is there to help. This is the type of trust that scripture calls us to have for our heavenly Father.

Hebrews 13:5-6 Tells us “Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, I will never fail you. I will never abandon you. So, we can say with confidence, The Lord is my helper so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?” Main Point: When we rely on God as our helper and trust that He will never fail or abandon us, we will have no fear. Trusting in the Lord will give us the fearlessness we need to persevere in trying times.

Why should we trust in the Lord? What does it mean to trust in the Lord? Let me tell you how the book of Hebrews answers these questions. Hebrews was written because Jewish Christians were under persecution and they began to wonder if they made a mistake choosing Christ over Judaism. And what we see in this letter is that Jesus is superior to the Angels and to Moses, He is the Son of God and therefore the new covenant is supreme. “God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.” (Heb. 1: 1-2) The fact that Jesus came in the flesh and suffered as we suffer means he understands our pain and how to help us. The fact that He died for us, so that he could break the power of the devil, shows His love and devotion to us. It also shows His power and the fact that the devil is defeated.

So like Sophia, who chose to let go of fear when she realized that titi loved her and was there to help her, you too can choose to trust God because He is our, Helper, He loves us and He will never fail nor abandon us. When I hear these words, I

Jessica Flores

Sermon Manuscript

CD601.NA-Proclamation and Communication

can't help but see that we serve a powerful unshakeable God who I can trust.

There is no need for fear.

When that COVID-19 monster starts acting up, showing his teeth and making a ruckus we can be at peace knowing God has already won the battle over the enemy. We can calmly rebuke that monster and tell it be still and go where Jesus sends you.

What does trusting God and being fearless look like in everyday life? When I lose my job, I will not fear because I know God will provide. When I get sick, I will not fear because God is my healer. When I am lonely, I will remind myself God will never leave me nor forsake me. When I am depressed or anxious, I will trust His word that says God has not given me a spirit of fear but of power, love and sound mind.

These examples are not merely examples, these are my experiences, my trials and times of testing. I remember when I was 23 years old and six months' pregnant. I was living on my own and working in a law firm. I knew the law firm was having financial problems and they were planning on moving, but they assured me they would take me with them. One morning I went to the office and it was closed, I no longer had a job. I went home laid on my bed and cried out to the Lord. I cried and cried until I heard the Lord say, ok you've gotten it out of your system, now I want you to pick up that phone and start calling attorneys you worked for in the past. So, I obeyed and the first attorney I called, told me to come to his office the following week. God provided me with a new job earning more

Jessica Flores

Sermon Manuscript

CD601.NA-Proclamation and Communication

money with benefits and maternity leave. All things the job I had lost did not offer. In this hurt I learned to depend on Him and Trust Him.

Every test, every wilderness that we go through, including this Covid pandemic can and will be redeemed. The key is trusting in the Lord to help us through and being obedient to His word. I mentioned earlier that I trust God is a healer. Now I will tell you why. There was that time I caught a MRSA pneumonia. I could not breath and I was intubated. I was also in a medically induced coma. I remember the doctors discussing my conditions at the foot of my bed. They said my name then went on to say I was the worst patient in the intensive care unit and that I would not make it. In my mind I did not understand why they would speak that way, but I did not realize I was in a coma. They told my family to prepare the funeral arrangements. But what the doctors did not know was that by that time I trusted in the power of God. I believed God at His word when He said that through His stripes we are healed. I meditated on every scripture of healing that I could remember. Every time my body felt weak, because I was in a lot of physical pain, God would send His ministering angels, the nurses and hospital staff to minister to me and strengthen me in the spirit. I prayed and fought, because my son was only a boy then, and I was all he had. I knew my God would not take me and leave him alone to fend for himself. I chose to believe and trust God and depend on His word despite of what I saw in the natural. I can testify today that He is a healer because He healed me when the doctors said I would not make it.

What would have happened to me had I believed the doctors and given up the fight? What would have happened if Sophia would have gone back through the door back to what was familiar to her? She would have lost out on discovering

Jessica Flores

Sermon Manuscript

CD601.NA-Proclamation and Communication

something new. She would not have experienced the love and safety she discovered at titi's house. Look at the Israelites, God's covenant people, they never entered the rest of God's promise land because of their fear. That wilderness mindset kept them from God's best, from God's abundance.

I am going to ask that you all close your eyes. Think of a situation where you feel you are being tested. Now I want you to picture Jesus in that test as your helper. I encourage you today to put your trust in the Lord, depend on Him, He will never fail nor abandon you, persevere and enter His promised land.