

How Far Do You Trust God?

Message for Sunday, July 21, 2019
by Bruce Fraser

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16 and more

Psalm 34:8, New Living Translation:
Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who trust in him!

That's what we're going to focus on today: trusting God. Before we get into that, though, let's explore what the word "trust" means.

1) What is "trust"?

A man named Gibbo used to work as a clerk for Selfridges, a major store in Britain. One day the phone rang and Gibbo answered. The caller asked to speak to his boss, Gordon Selfridge, who was the founder of the company. Mr. Selfridge happened to be in the room at the time, so Gibbo put his hand over the receiver and said, "Mr. Selfridge, *so-and-so* is on the line for you." Gordon Selfridge replied, "Tell him I'm out."

Gibbo handed the phone to Gordon Selfridge and said, "You tell him you're out." Selfridge took the call, but as soon as he hung up he was furious with Gibbo. Gibbo listened politely and then answered, "If I can lie *for* you, I can lie *to* you." That moment transformed Gibbo's career. He became Gordon Selfridge's most trusted employee.

What is trust? In that story, it describes a person of integrity. But "trust" can mean other things as well. When you say, "I trust you," what does that mean? *Ask for responses, and write them on flip chart in column 1. Possibilities:*

- I believe what you tell me
- You won't hurt me
- You will help me
- I can count on you; you keep your commitments
- I don't have to worry about what you'll do
- I can let you look after something for me (even something extremely valuable), and know that you will take good care of it.

Contrast those thoughts with what it means when I say, "I don't trust you." *Ask the group for help in changing all the above statements into "don't trust." Write these in column 2. Possibilities:*

- I *don't* believe what you tell me
- You *might* hurt me
- You *might not* help me
- I *can't* count on you; you *don't* keep your commitments
- I *worry* about what you'll do
- I *can't* let you look after something for me (even something *only slightly* valuable), *because I don't know* that you will take good care of it.

Clearly being a person who others can trust is a good thing! When we live with integrity, our lives bring honour to God, as well as ourselves.

2) Above all others, God is worthy of our trust

Watch video "Trust Fall." You can see the preview online: <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/20471/trust-fall>.

Mark 10:13-16, New Living Translation:

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch them and bless them, but the disciples told them not to bother him. But when Jesus saw what was happening, he was very displeased with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. **I assure you, anyone who doesn't have their kind of faith will never get into the Kingdom of God.**" Then he took the children into his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

Think of a baby (if one is present, ask the parent to pick up the baby to illustrate). The baby completely trusts his or her parents. The baby has no fear of them—unless perhaps they make a loud noise. That is the kind of absolute trust and faith in God that Jesus says we need.

In Matthew 6, Jesus talks about some of the things people worry about: food, clothing, life in general. He tells the people not to worry, but instead do something far better:

Matthew 6:33, New International Version:

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

The prophet Jeremiah paints a word picture of what happens in our lives when we trust God.

Jeremiah 17:7-8, New Living Translation:

But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit.

That sounds good! It tastes good!

Psalm 34:8, New Living Translation:

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who trust in him!

Danny Moe, a pastor in B.C., describes how trusting God changes everything about how we look at life.

A woman—let's call her Doris—lost her husband and all four of her children in a boating accident. She was utterly devastated. She went to her own minister, but his words left her feeling empty. She lived in a state of misery for a year. Then, at a church conference she talked with me.

When I heard the woman's story, I prayed silently, "O God, I don't know what to say; give me the words she needs to hear." Then I said to her, "When you die and go to heaven, do you believe you'll have the opportunity to talk to the Lord about what happened to your family, and tell him all about how much it hurt you?"

"Yes, I've got so many questions I want to ask him."

"Do you believe Jesus will be able to answer your questions?"

"Yes, I know he will, even though I don't understand how."

"And you'll feel better knowing that, somehow, God was still working through it all?"

"Yes, I'm looking forward to that time."

"Since that's what you believe for the future, why don't you believe that for the present? You trust Jesus to give you peace at that time. Why not trust Jesus to give you peace right now?"

Doris thought about that for a long while. I never saw her again; but I did meet one of her

neighbours a few years later. When I realized that this woman knew Doris, I excitedly asked whatever happened to her.

"Oh she's had the most blessed life! She has come out of her shell, and she has the blossom and sparkle she had years ago. And last year she got married to a wonderful man and they've adopted four refugee children. She has a new family now, and she's enjoying life to the full."

3) Let's put our trust in God

What if we take those statements of trust (back in part 1), and say them to God? Let's read them together aloud, addressed to God.

Next Steps:

- Choose how you will live: a life of worry and fear, or a life of trusting God. Make a conscious decision.
- Pray: say to God, "Lord, I trust you in everything. Yes, even in that thing which has been on my mind. So let me take all the time and energy I spent on worrying, and use it for your kingdom."
- In your own life, be a person others can trust, a person of integrity.