

## The Promise Keeper

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### Hebrews

- If you have your bibles, go ahead and turn to the book of Hebrews chapter 6.
- And it's been a couple of weeks since we had put this study on pause, however, the last thing we studied was the distinction between milk-fed and mature believers
- And we concluded that the most mature believers, love and care for people the most.
- And the writer says that he believes the best about the Hebrews that he is writing to! That God will not forget the love that they have shown Him by the way they have been serving the people of God
- So his encouragement is for them to remain diligent in the faith. Keep showing that love and care for people. His prayer is that they would not become lazy in their faith, but

imitate those who through faith and patience, inherited the promises of God.

- And in verse 13, he gives an example of one those individuals that they are to imitate.
- ***“For when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. 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, 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. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope***

***that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” -Hebrews 6:13-20 (ESV)***

- So to give us the full picture of what the writer is trying to explain, I want to take us back to the book of Genesis, to the portion of the story of Abraham and the promise that the writer is referring to. And this starts in Genesis chapter 12.
- But before we get there, let's take a moment to PRAY and ask the Lord to speak to us through His word this morning.
- Watching Pro Golfers make mistakes
  - I'm not watching to just see my favorite players, to see these incredibly talented guys make incredible shot after incredible shot... no, I'm watching to see these guys who are making of millions of dollars to play this game and still hit it the ball in the woods...

- I want to know that even the best players in the world, still aren't perfect, and will still make mistakes, and that gives me so much hope and comfort
- Because even if the best players on the planet still make bone headed mistakes too, I don't have to give up, there's hope for me that I can keep at it and keep getting better
- In a similar way, I think that sometimes we can read about some of the people of incredible faith in the bible, and we just kind of look at the highlights rather than their entire story.
- And when we look at their entire story, we can actually gain a lot of hope and comfort knowing that some of the great heroes of our faith, still weren't perfect, and they were still learning and growing themselves.
- The Writer of Hebrews points us toward one of those heroes of the faith, talking about Abraham.

- So for context:
  - If you go back to Genesis chapter 6, we see that things had gotten so bad on the earth that God regretted even making man. There was only one person left on the planet that God could see as blameless
  - And that was Noah.
  - So God had him build an ark, take his family and two of every kind of animal, and God flooded and cleansed the earth. Now, God took no pleasure in this, and promised to never punish the earth in this way again.
  - After the Flood and the promise to never flood again, God tells Noah and his family to be fruitful and multiply, and the earth begins to fill with people once again
  - But the disease of sin is so deeply seeded within humanity, that the same problems begin to arise again.
- By the time we get to chapter 11, things get so dark, that we read about mankind showing a complete rejection of God by trying to build a tower they called Babel, in order to make their own way to heaven.
  - But God remembers that He isn't going to wipe out the earth with floods anymore, so He instead confuses their speech, and everyone began to speak different languages...now everyone is confused and can't understand each other anymore, so they end up scattering all around the world
  - But there is one family line that still seems to have some promise. And these are the descendants from the line of Shem. These descendants, somewhere down the line, end up settling in an area called Ur that is a very pagan culture.
- Ur was known as being the central hub for "moon worship"

- This family had began to get sucked into this pagan culture of idolatry
- So here you have the last hope for a Godly family, they begin to get swept up into a pagan culture, and then a man named Terah, has a son he names Abram.
- His name Abram, which means 'Father', seems to be a cruel ironic joke because he ends up marrying a woman who can't have children.
- The last hope for a Godly family seems to be flickering out...
- That is, until God encounters Abram when he was 75 years old, and tells him, "***Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the***

***earth shall be blessed.***" -***Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)***

- So this is the great promise that Abram initially gets, and he doesn't get a lot of context about the promise, he doesn't even get an exact location of where he is supposed to go!
- However, even when it wouldn't have made sense to the rest of the people around him or even his family, he received and believed the promise of God and he packed everything up and left as God had told him to
- So here Abram is, the great Father of our faith as he is referred to, The one that the writer of Hebrews is telling us to emulate
  - And we can sometimes get a bit overwhelmed thinking about that kind of faith.
  - And we can think to ourselves, if God were to give us a vague promise like that, if He were to tell us to go and not tell us where we are

going too, would we have the faith to move in that kind of obedience

- And we can start to beat ourselves up a little bit
  - However, if we get the full context of Abram's journey we might find a little more encouragement.
- Because here, he did move in obedience, he did believe the promise of God, but as soon as he receives the promise, we see him make a mistake.
- So while Abram was traveling, they ran into a famine and they ended up going into Egypt where most of the food and resources would be
  - But we read in verse 11, ***“When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is***

***his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.” -Genesis 12:11-13 (ESV)***

- So we see that even the great Father of the faith, still had a moment of unbelief
  - If he was so confident in the promise of God to make of him a great nation, make his name great, and bless all of the families of the earth, he wouldn't be worried about being killed.
  - But because of his fear, he lost sight of God's promise
  - And the results of this should have been detrimental
  - Because whenever they got into Egypt, the Egyptians did in fact see how beautiful Sarai was, and she stuck to the plan, claimed to be

Abram's sister, and they took her away to Pharaoh

- Here, Abram is putting the whole promise of God in jeopardy, because how is God supposed to make of him a great nation if his wife is taken away??
- But here's the encouraging part:
- **OUR MISTAKES DON'T STOP THE PROMISES OF GOD**
  - God's plans are greater than our failures
  - And it's important to note that even when we are on this journey of spiritual maturity, we will not be immune from making mistakes
  - We will still have moments of unbelief
  - And God's promises of God are FOR us, but they are not dependent upon us
- You see, when Sarai was taken into Pharaoh's palace, God afflicted Pharaoh and his house with plagues. One thing after another kept

going wrong until they finally clued in that Abram had lied to them, Sarai was actually his wife, and then Pharaoh gave Sarai back to Abram and then made them leave.

- So God intervened to get them out of that situation
- And does God scold Abram for being thoughtless, careless, and faithless? No, God instead reiterates the promise to him.
- God actually continues to bless him
- And Abram gets blessed with so many resources that he and his nephew Lot have to separate
- And chapter 13, verse 14 says, ***“The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring***

***as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” -Genesis 13:14-17 (ESV)***

- You see, God has grace and understanding for Abram’s situation
- Because I think about other times where people would show faithlessness or unbelief and God didn’t show this type of patience with them!
  - I think of Saul and Zechariah just to name a few
- But the reality was, they knew better. But Abram is still brand new to this life of faith! Yes he may have been in his 70’s but he didn’t start following God until he was 75
- And the reality is, is that are going to be times of growing pains in this life of faith, where we receive the promise of salvation, we believe in the promise of being a member of the family of

God, we receive with faith the presence of God in our lives...but we are still going to make mistakes

- And the presence and promises of God in our lives, don’t go away when we do...we just need to be reminded of the promise, and get back up and keep moving forward
- We are after spiritual maturity, not perfection
- And just because we are Christians, and just because we believe and receive the promises of God in our lives, that doesn’t mean that we are immune to mistakes, and it also doesn’t mean that we are immune to facing battles either.
- So, so far we have seen Abram receive the promise, then he immediately made a mistake, God corrects his wrong, God reminds him of the promise, and then in chapter 14, we see Abram facing a battle.

- We are given the context in the beginning of the chapter that 4 kings have rebelled and waged war against 5 other kings.
- And in the midst of that war, the 4 kings won. And Lot, Abram's nephew found himself caught in the middle of it, and as soon as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah had been defeated, that land in which Lot was living was taken over.
- And Lot was taken into captivity along with all of his family and possessions.
  - Luckily, someone had escaped and gotten word back to Abram about what was going on.
- Now, at this point, the majority of us in our modern society and church culture, this is the point where we get mad at God.
  - If we're in Abram's shoes we're thinking, "Are you serious God!? You lead me out here, you give me all of this, just to let my Nephew get captured! They're probably after me next!"
- This is when we would tend to panic, and play the blame game...
- However, that isn't the way that Abram reacts. In fact, we see that already something has begun to change in him, and we see an aspect of his spiritual growth here.
- In verse 14 we read, ***"When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people."*** -Genesis 14:14-16 (ESV)
- This seems a far cry from what we read about in chapter 12...but I think that it is so encouraging that:



**- GOD CAN USE OUR MISTAKES TO LEAD US TO BOLD FAITH**

- Keep in mind, this is the same guy, that cowered in fear whenever he got close to Egypt and was willing to give his wife away because he was scared that he might get hurt.
- Now, all of the sudden, he takes every single able bodied man capable of fighting within his camp, and leads them out to battle against 4 kings that had just defeated 5 other kings!
  - What kind of audacity does Abram have, to think that his mere 300 men could defeat successful armies??
  - But this time, Abram remembered the promise of God
- And specifically the part of the promise in which God said, anyone who dishonors you, I will curse.

- Now, because of his mistake in Egypt, he got to see first hand, that God wasn't messing around. He wasn't speaking figuratively.
  - Whenever Pharaoh took Abram's wife, (even it being unbeknownst to him that it was Abram's wife), it still would have been dishonorable for Abram's wife to be with anyone else, so what did God do?
  - He cursed that household until Abram got his wife back!
- So, even though Abram made a mistake back then, he can learn from it now.
- And this time, he sees his family being attacked, and made captive, and he sees that as dishonorable.
  - And if he takes God at his word, there is no way that he can lose this fight, so he takes all that he has, and pursues those armies....and wins.

- Who knows that he would have had the bold faith that he did at that time, if he hadn't had the opportunity to learn from his mistake.
- You see, it would be preferable that we don't make these big mistakes...however in the process of our spiritual journey of maturity, whenever we do make a mistake, we don't stay in it.
  - No, we allow ourselves to be reminded of the promises of God and we move forward and allow ourselves to learn from it.
- Like the proverb says, ***“For the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.” -Proverbs 24:6 (ESV)***
  - You see, a big difference between those who follow Jesus and those who don't follow Jesus is the effect that surrounding circumstances and personal mistakes have on us.
- Whenever we as believers fall, we do not stay down. We get back up, we go before the throne of grace, we cling to His mercies that are new every morning, and we rehearse the promises of God over our lives
- And the hope is that we keep going after the things of God and those mistakes become fewer and further in between as we mature.
  - But it's a process, and you need to learn to be patient with yourself because God is patient with you.
- Because even for us believers, walking in the promises of God, like Abram, we will still make mistakes, we will still face battles, and we will still have times of discouragement.
- When we get to chapter 15, Abram is getting a little discouraged and impatient, because if you remember, he was 75 years old when he was promised that he would have descendants and a countless family line.

- And years and years are still going by, and he's not seeing the process that he wants to be seeing.
- And God can sense his discouragement and comes to him in chapter 15 saying, ***"Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then He said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness." - Genesis 15:1-6 (ESV)***
- He believed God, even in the midst of it making no logical sense. He and his barren wife are WAY too old to have children. He has no idea how any of this could be possible, but yet HE BELIEVES God, and THAT was counted to Him as righteousness
  - NOT making all of the right decisions
  - NOT never making a mistake...
  - Not having a perfect performance
  - But BELIEVING GOD
- Abram's belief of God was counted to him as righteousness, which means to be right-with-God.
- Not only was Abram made right-with-God because of his belief in Him, it also created a friendship with God.
- James 2:23 says, ***"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as***

***righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.” -James 2:23 (ESV)***

- In Isaiah, —> ***“But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, My friend;” -Isaiah 41:8 (ESV)***  
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- God Himself refers to the Israelites as the offspring of “Abraham My Friend.”
- And as it is with friends, you don’t have to be afraid to be honest with God. You don’t have to be afraid to ask the questions that you need to ask Him when you are feeling discouraged and confused
- We’ve already seen that Abram does in fact believe God, but yet he still asks Him in verse 6, ***“But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” -Genesis 15:6 (ESV)***

- And God doesn’t respond by rebuking him or getting on to him for unbelief. Instead, God ups the ante.
  - God goes even a step further to help settle Abram’s spirit and give him a greater assurance.
- And this is where we get to the oath that the writer of Hebrews referred to in chapter 6.
  - And the beautiful part of this was that he says that God desired to do this.
- Again he says, ***“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” -Hebrews 6:17 (ESV)***
  - God desires to show you more of His character
  - God desires to show you how much He cares

- God desires to give you peace of mind and to settle your spirit whenever you are uncertain
- God deeply desires to show you how good He is
- And he shows this to Abram in a more powerful way than Abram may have even understood at the time.
- To further emphasize God's seriousness about His promise, He enters into an oath or a covenant with Abram.
  - And in the ancient times, the people took their covenants very seriously. They had 4 main forms of covenants that they would go through, however, the blood covenant was the most serious of them all.
  - And in most cases, this would be a contractual agreement that would take place between friends to pledge their loyalty to each other...whether it be in battle or business or anything of the like.
- And we see God entering into one of these covenants with His friend here.
- In these covenants, as Hebrews describes, a person of a lesser standing would enter into the covenant with a friend of a much higher standing.
- And it was the duty of the lesser standing person to provide the animals and make the preparations for the covenant to show their seriousness and commitment to keep their side of the bargain
  - So God has Abram go get 5 different animals.
  - And the way this would take place, is the one preparing the covenant would kill and cut the animals in half, place each half of the animal across from each other and form a sort of path.
  - Then traditionally after the preparations were made, each party would step into the path and say out loud *"May what was done to*

*these animals be done to me if I do not keep this covenant.”*

- And then the greater party would pass walk through the path of bloody carcasses, followed by the lesser party and thus they were bound together by the blood covenant
- Now, this seems very barbaric and strange to us in our day and age, but for them in their context and this culture, this was to highlight the seriousness, the magnitude, and the heaviness of how serious this covenant was.
- And if, I'm Abram at this time, as I am preparing for this covenant, I'm probably stressing a little bit
  - And it's not that he's doubting God, he's already believed God at His word...however, if I'm Abram, I'm doubting myself.
  - I would be thinking, "I know God is going to keep up His end of the deal, but am I going to be able to keep up mine?"

- Because yes, I am growing, i'm trusting Him more and more as time goes on, but I still make mistakes, I still mess up, I still have my moments of doubt and discouragement....so what's going to happen to me if I make this promise but can't live up to it???
- Because the truth of the matter is, he wouldn't be able to live up to it...not perfectly.
- And God knew that...
- And again, I said it before but I want to highlight it again: **THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE FOR US, BUT NOT DEPENDENT UPON US**
- And this is how I know this to be true.
- Because God doesn't even make Abram walk through path!
- Verse 12 says, ***“As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him....When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a***

***flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land...” -Genesis 15:12, 17-18 (ESV)***

- We see elsewhere in scripture that smoke and fire were regular symbols of the presence of God
- So we see God’s presence passing through the covenant twice, once in Abram’s place and once for Himself.
- Signifying that the sole responsibility for the keeping of this covenant would be placed on God Himself.
  - He makes the promise, through the seriousness of a blood covenant, that Abram will have offspring, that his descendants will have their promised land!
- And God goes through these great lengths to tangibly show His commitment to His promise,

and yet AGAIN, the very next thing we read about in chapter 16 is Abram making a mistake again!

- He and his wife had been waiting 10 years since Abram originally got the promise, and they decide to take matters into their own hands
- They say to themselves, “Maybe God wants us to have children another way...”
- And to keep it PG, they got themselves a surrogate of sorts, and Abram ends up having a child with one of Sarai’s servants.
- But God says, “Nope! That wasn’t the promise! That wasn’t the plan!”
- And He reiterates in chapter 17. It says: ***“When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between Me and you, and may***

***multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” -Genesis 17:1-7 (ESV)***

- Then God goes on to say very plainly that the next year, Abraham and his wife Sarah will have their own child
- And God kept up His end of the bargain, when Isaac was miraculously born when Abraham was 100 years old.

- But that was just phase 1 of the promise. Phase 2 would come in the form of Joshua leading the people into the promised land almost 400 years later.
- But there was still the promises of them being expanded into a multitude of nations, that Kings would come from their family line!
- The promise wasn't just for Abraham, it was an everlasting covenant for all of the generations that would come after Him
- And God time and time again kept His end of the bargain, never failing.
  - But the people were supposed to keep their end as well. They were supposed to walk before God and be blameless, God was supposed to be their one and only God
  - But time after time throughout the Old Testament we see them breaking their side of the covenant



- And massive consequences were at stake with the breaking of a blood covenant
  - But again, God did not make Abraham or any other human being walk through the blood covenant to bear the responsibility of it
  - And the people knew that, they would remember God's promises and the oath that God made with Abraham and the way in which He made it
- And throughout the generations, every single day in the temple the priests would perform the Tamid sacrifices. Or the perpetual, or continual sacrifices in remembrance of God's covenant with Abraham
- And these would take place every single day, rain or shine in the Temple.
- Every morning at 9am (or the third hour) and 3pm (the ninth hour) an animal would be sacrificed and put on the altar.
  - And so everyone would know when the time for these sacrifices were, a priest would go up to a niche in the right hand corner of the temple overlooking the city, and precisely at 9am, he would blow a Rams horn, called a Shofar
  - Below him, on the ground floor, another priest would be standing over a sacrificial lamb with a knife to it's neck
  - The priest above would blow the horn, so that all of the priests and people would know that it was time for the sacrifice...and they would stop and think to themselves, *"God remember the covenant that you made with our Father Abraham. Don't forget the promise. Save us!"*
  - And whenever the drone of the horn would die out, the priest below would slit the throat of the sacrificial lamb, drain the blood and place it on the altar
  - And throughout the day all of the other sacrifices would be place on top of it. The sin sacrifices, the guilt sacrifices, the peace

offerings, all of them would be placed on that first sacrificial lamb.

- And then when it came time to conclude the sacrifices for the day, at 3pm the horn would be blown, the people would pray again for God to remember His covenant, and the final sacrifice of the day would be made exactly like the first one.
- Now, why is that so significant? Because it brings so much more meaning to when John the Baptist sees Jesus and says, **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” -John 1:29 (ESV)**
- And the timing is so significant because when Mark details the death of Jesus, he specifically lets us know, **“And it was the third hour (9am) when they crucified Him.” -Mark 15:25 (ESV)**
- So as that 9am horn was blowing and the people were asking God to remember His

covenant, the nails were being driven through Jesus’ hands and His feet.

- Then Jesus would proceed to hang on that cross for the next 6 hours, as all of the weight of our sin and our guilt, everything that had kept us from having peace with God was being put onto Him
- And then Mark tells us, **“And at the ninth hour (as the 3pm horn was being blown and the people once again were asking God to remember His covenant) *Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”...And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last.*” -Mark 15: 34,37 (ESV)**
- Oh God did, in fact, remember His covenant. He kept up His end of the bargain, and took the consequences of our breaking of the Covenant upon Himself!

- This is why the writer keeps beating it into His readers that Jesus is the truer and greater High Priest!
- He goes on to say in chapter 10, ***“And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God... For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”***  
***-Hebrews 10:11-12,14 (ESV)***
- And because of the great mercy and grace of our Promise Keeping God, the writer says that we have this Hope as a sure and steadfast anchor for our souls!
  - We have this Hope: that even when we make mistakes, God’s promise to prepare a place for us still stands
  - We have this Hope: that even when we face battles, God’s promise to never leave us or forsake us still remains
  - And we have this Hope: that even when we are discouraged in our spiritual walk, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion
- You keep going! You keep chasing after Him! Stand strong in your faith, because even if you fall, because of the work Jesus has done for you, you can get back up, you can keep getting stronger, you can keep growing in your faith
- So follow the example of a man like Abraham. A guy who heard the promise of God and followed Him. Immediately made a mistake that God has to get him out of. Then was reminded of the Promise of God, faced his battle with bold faith. Then went into a time of discouragement. He talked to God about it, God affirmed him, but he just made a mistake again. Was reminded of the promises of God a

third time. And all of that was just the first half of his story.

- The Spiritual journey is a rollercoaster. You're going to have your ups, you're going to have your downs
  - You're going to have your wins, you're going to have your losses
- But your mistakes aren't going to stop the promises of God in your life
- God, who works all things out, can actually use your mistakes to lead you to deeper faith
- And you don't have to put all of the pressure on yourself because you do not receive the promises of God based on your performance
  - God made that covenant with Abraham, and fulfilled that covenant through Jesus so you could have the opportunity to go on this spiritual journey with Him.

Sunday, March 17, 2024

- Anchored in the presence of God/to heaven
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- Asking the Rabi, what changed?
- Now I don't share that to say that I'm some sort of apologist or great debater. Because I'm not. I'm the one that normally gets muzzled in the middle of an argument or debate and doesn't think of the right thing to say until later.
- No, I am no clever man, fountain of wisdom, or anything like that. I'm really not that smart at all!
- I am just a man that has been changed by Jesus and knows first hand His power to change absolutely EVERYTHING about someones life and how He has the tendency to turn the world upside down
  - I have been changed by His love, I have been transformed by His power, and He completely flipped the system in order to make this life of faith possible.
- And it completely tears me a part and breaks my heart that there are people out there looking so desperately for Him, and whenever they see Him, right in front of their face, they're told...no, that's not Him.