

“God of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness”

Sermon Notes

Treasure this assurance: The God of steadfast love and faithfulness will not let you go.

Various texts: Psalm 31:5, 59:10, 17; Gen 24; Exod 34; Num 14:18-19; Deut 7; Joel 2:12-14; Micah 7:18-20; Jonah 4:1-4; Psalm 88; 89; John 3; 1 John 4; Romans 8:31-39

Next week: Ruth

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of September 4th - 10th

Conversation Starters

Consider these questions to start reflecting: Have you ever had a relationship that ended (friend, business partner, dating relationship, marriage)? Has someone ever gone back on their word to you? What were these experiences like? What was so hard? How were you tempted to sin in response?

Observation and Meaning

Read Psalms 31 and 59. David found himself in what difficult situations? How did the situation impact him? In turn, how do these psalms convey how David related to the LORD? David grounds his petitions in the person, nature, and work of the LORD. What themes does David focus on in this psalm (e.g. look at repeated words and ideas)? What do you learn about the LORD, the faithful God? What do you learn about the "God who shows me steadfast love"?

Read Deuteronomy 7:1-11. What is the LORD about to do for Israel? So what does the LORD command Israel to do? What is the warning if they do not obey? Verses 6-11 give the reasons behind the LORD's commands. What is the nature of the past relationship between the LORD and Israel? Why should Israel continue to trust the LORD now, as they enter the land? Who is the God, whom they should trust and obey? How are they to reciprocate or respond to his steadfast love and faithfulness?

Read Joel 2:12-14, Micah 7:18-20, and Jonah 4:1-4. When these prophets were tasked with calling others to repentance, what did they communicate about who God is? Look back at Exodus 34 and its context, where the LORD revealed his name to Moses. What is the importance of God being merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithful?

Consider Psalms 88 and 89. What is the importance of the steadfast love and faithfulness of God to each psalmist, in their respective circumstances?

The steadfast love of God was incarnated in Jesus Christ. How is God's love described in John 3:16-21? 1 John 4:7-21? Romans 8:31-39?

Application

How has this study changed or deepened your beliefs about God, as the Faithful/Reliable God and the God of Steadfast Love?

Where in your life do you need God to be faithful, reliable, and steadfast in his love?

How do these names of God reshape your desires, expectations, and longings? See Psalms 36:5-7; 25:6-10; 40:10-11; 69:13; 85:7, 10; 86:15; 100; 107; 108:4; 115:1; 118; 136; 138:2 147:11

How will you live differently this week in light of knowing El Emeth (God of Truth), El Ne'eman (Faithful/Reliable God), Elohe Chasdo (God of Steadfast Love)?