

“CLAIM THIS PROMISE WHEN YOUR FAMILY FORSAKES YOU”

TEXT: Psalm 27:10

INTRO: A. How many have unsaved parents? Other unsaved family members? How many have been forsaken or rejected by them? Usually when we get saved we think that our family members will readily respond to the Gospel. We are often met with indifference or open hostility. Somehow they feel betrayed. How could we leave the religion of our parents or family? How dare we turn our back on them because of religion?

B. When King David was being hounded by King Saul he made arrangements for his mother and father to be taken care of by the King of Moab (1 Sam.22:3,4). They apparently resent and became critical of him. Perhaps it was at this time he penned these poignant words.

Psalm 27:10

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

C. Our Savior knew that there would be difficult relations between parents and family members and their children who chose Him. The truth is, that choosing Him does not mean excluding them...except where His truth demands a separation.

Matthew 10:34-36

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

ILLUS: I know of one woman here who has lost her husband and marriage because of choosing to serve the Lord rather than to participate with him in his sin. I know of teens and young people whose parents have severed all ties with them because of “abandoning the family religion.” When this happens you need to “CLAIM THIS PROMISE!”

I. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER CANNOT FORGET US:

A. God Is Omniscient:

1. His very nature prevents Him from forgetting His children.
2. His father/child relationship prevents Him from forgetting His children.

Isaiah 49:15

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

ILLUS: Isaiah here admits the possibility of a mother forsaking her own flesh and blood, but assures Israel that their heavenly Father will never forget His children.

It is interesting that in the OLD TESTAMENT the Lord is not referred to as “Heavenly Father.” (He is referred to as “the everlasting Father” in Isaiah 9:6. The term “Father” is used 234 times in the NEW TESTAMENT!) It is also instructive that out of the 6 times in the NEW TESTAMENT the term of endearment “Heavenly Father” is used, it is found in the Gospel of Matthew...to the Jews. The

most times the word "Father" is used in the NEW TESTAMENT is in the Gospel of John, the universal Gospel.

B. God Is Compassionate:

1 John 3:1

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1. He is far more compassionate to His children than any human parent.
2. The love He has for His children surpasses the love of a parent.

ILLUS: Though I have no doubt a parent on a sinking ship would perhaps sacrifice his or her life for their child, they are rarely faced with such a choice. Our heavenly Father has already met that test, but He reversed this and gave His Son, not for those who were His children, but for rebels against Him, that they might become His children!

Remember this when your family members forsake you and **CLAIM THIS PROMISE!**

II. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER CANNOT STOP LOVING US:

A. God Is Love:

1. Love is not just an emotion with the Lord, it is Who He Is!
2. His love is not predicated on our response or on what or who we are; He is not a respecter of persons, but emanates from His very nature.
 - a. The Lord cannot turn His love off and on as we seem to be able to do because love is His very nature.
 - b. We are to emulate His love toward those we call friends; "A friend loveth at all times."

B. God Is Faithful:

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

1. Again, it is His nature to be faithful to those He has manifested His love to.
2. God is not some fickle parent, you can count on His love in thick and thin, when we do good and when we do bad.

ILLUS: Unlike the mother who recently systematically drowned her 5 children because she couldn't stand them and what they did and is pleading temporary insanity and will likely get off with a sentence in a mental institution for 5 years, God is faithful in His love. The whole doctrine of eternal security rests upon God's faithfulness. He cannot go back on His promises and His love forbids Him to be fickle towards His children.

There are days when, as your Pastor, I love you. Then you stab me in the back and I turn off my love. I need to recognize how often I have stabbed my Savior with my unfaithfulness, disobedience and rebellion, then my love will no longer be fickle.

III. OUR HEAVENLY FATHER CANNOT CEASE HELPING US:

A. God Is A Helper:

Psalms 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

1. In our text verse David used an interesting phrase "...the Lord will take me up;" literally it means "to gather me."
2. Our Savior used a similar image when He looked at Jerusalem through His tears and said "...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not. Mt. 23:37"
 - a. The Lord sees His children in trouble and wants to "gather them up" to help them.

POEM: God feedeth the sparrows that fly in the air; they are never in trouble, but what He is there.
If God with these creatures His blessings doth share, then we surely can trust such infinite care.

- b. Perhaps instead of "What a Friend we have in Jesus" we ought to sing, "What a Loving Parent we have in Jesus."

B. God Is A Parent:

1. He lovingly calls us His children, His sons and daughters.
2. We are His children by birth and by adoption.
3. There is another sense in which we are His children.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

- a. This is sonship on a deeper level.
 - b. This is not just being in the family, but being an obedient child and receiving favored status in the family.

ILLUS: We all have experienced this in our human family. We may be family members, but there are times when we do something which brings honor to the family and everyone gives us special recognition. Here is a son or daughter who achieves recognition or honor in the academic area, sports, etc. and not only earns a plaque, but special attention from other family members. Better still, here is a child who, like the Prodigal Son, who shows his character by coming back home to the Father and a great recognition party is held for him.

CONCL: When your family members forsake you, know that you have a Heavenly Father Who cannot forget or forsake you, who cannot stop loving you and who will not stop helping you. CLAIM THIS PROMISE" Psalm 27:10