

Text: Psalm 91:1-3

Theme: Because God Says, "I Will"

February 14, 2016

As most of you already know, today is Valentine's Day, a day for some to remember their wedding anniversary and for others to reflect back to their wedding day and the promises they made on that day as they said their, "I wills." Interestingly, in our text, we find God saying, "I will," yet, as we also know, He is speaking those words for a different reason, yet a very important reason. As we focus on God's "I will" statements, we consider our theme: Because God Says, "I Will."

I. Because God is a God of promise, God says, "I will." A. But why do we need a God who says, "I will?" 1. We need Him because our lives are filled with trouble. That's a rather obvious statement, isn't it? Would any of us say that our lives have no troubles, that nothing is broken within, that we have no need for God to step in and rescue us? As the Psalmist says of God, "I will be with him in trouble," he solidifies the thought that trouble lives within, that troubles plague us. Your troubles may be different from mine, of greater magnitude or different quantity. Yet we cannot escape the reality that trouble lives within us, that we need God because we're in trouble.

2. We need Him because we don't have all the answers. When you were little, how many of you thought Mom and Dad had all the answers, that anything you needed or wanted to know, they could answer? As a child, it appeared true, but as we got older, we realized that Mom and Dad didn't know everything. Along the way, some arrived at that stage where Mom and Dad knew nothing. Yet, later on, most of us realized that Mom and Dad actually knew more than we thought. As life became more complicated, we soon had a lengthy list of questions no one could answer. As that reality struck home, we realized that we really didn't know much after all.

3. We also need a God who says, "I will," because we face never-ending temptations. As we think about the temptation Jesus encountered in the desert, in some manner, we can relate. The same devil who tempted Jesus enjoys tempting us, torturing us, and wreaking havoc in our lives. To us it sounds almost bizarre, but, to the devil, it's normal activity. When we're daydreaming or thinking we have life under control, the devil quietly arrives only to pounce on us like a roaring lion as he prepares to destroy the very faith that holds our lives together. If our God were not a God who said, "I will," the devil would surely be the one to say, "I won!"

B. Confident that God will continue to say, "I will," what is our response? 1. We respond by calling on our God. Did you notice the opening words of our text? "When he calls to me." Suppose you fell into an abandoned well that was thirty feet deep. Would you sit there and enjoy your surroundings or holler for help? Because we God know will listen, there's great benefit in calling on God, in hollering out to our God, in laying our lives before our God. As we call on God, we admit that we can't fix what's broken, that we are stuck in the bottom of that abandoned well. When we admit that we need Him, we create the perfect opportunity for God to say, "I will answer him."

2. We respond by expecting God to step in. If you were in that abandoned well and you knew that your best friend was nearby, what would you expect them to do? Walk away; laugh and say, "I'll see you later," or do something to help you out? When we fall into another one of life's wells of misfortune, God says, "I will be with

you.” But notice what God says. Does He say, “I will make it all better. I will dust you off and fix everything. I will make sure that nothing like that ever happens to you again?” God actually says something more important as He says, “I will be with you. I will not leave you. You might deserve it, but because I said, ‘I will,’ I will step in and help you.”

3. We respond by asking God to fix our brokenness. If you were in the bottom of that well and your leg was obviously broken, would you ask God for a new car, for a promotion at work, or to fix what was broken? Because our God says, “I will,” because He makes promise after promise, we call on God fully aware that we are broken and we ask God to fix our brokenness, to bind up our wounds, to heal us. What’s our motivation? We believe God can fix anything, that God can repair whatever is physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually broken. When we face our brokenness, we know God will listen because God has said, “I will rescue you.”

4. We respond by expecting God to strengthen us. How many of you run out of energy, face exhaustion, or simply lack the strength to do what needs to be done? We’re all in the same boat, aren’t we? But the best part about being in that boat is that Jesus is standing in our boat. He knows your pain, your fatigue, your inability to take that next step. Before we even open our mouths, God says, “I know. I know you are weak and weary. I know your hurt, your pain. I know you are exhausted, but I also know that in My boat, among My people, I offer strength. I will strengthen you for the task ahead. Believe I will and it will happen at My right time!”

5. We respond by humbling ourselves at the foot of the cross. There’s something that seems to happen without effort on our part. We think we can do it all by ourselves. We laugh at our kids when they say it, but it’s not a laughing matter when it occurs so easily as adults. Because we know of God’s promises, we take time during this Lenten season to humble ourselves, to unload our lives before God as we say, “Father, I prefer to fix everything that’s broken myself, but it doesn’t work and it isn’t what You ask of me. Teach me to be humble, Lord, to stand before You convinced that only You have unlimited power, power that You graciously use for my benefit!

6. We respond by learning to be content in the moment. Contentment, satisfaction, enjoyment in the moment. Wishful thinking, aren’t they? God created us for better, for a better life than that, for a life filled with contentment and satisfaction. Since God wants us to be content, it only makes sense that He would be the One we go to when we need that satisfaction, when we need to find enjoyment in the moment. Although He says, “I will satisfy you,” He doesn’t define satisfaction in the same way we define it. When we teach ourselves to be content in the moment, we discover that contentment has a better definition than we perceived in the past.

7. Today may be a day for sharing valentines, for reminding ourselves of those “I wills” that we made in years past. Yet, in the midst of those activities, God says, “Remember the most important “I will,” the “I will” which I have spoken for your eternal benefit.” Amen.