Hope For the Family sermon for 8-21-16

Some jokes about family…

* A police officer jumps into his squad car and calls the station.

“I have an interesting case here,” he says. “A woman shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped.”

“Have you arrested her?” asks the sergeant.

“No, not yet. The floor’s still wet.”

* I once gave my husband the  silent treatment for an entire week, at the end of which he declared, “Hey, we’re getting along pretty great lately!”
* I’m driving with this guy, and  he runs right through a Stop sign. So  I say, “Hey, that was a Stop sign.” And he says, “I drive like my brother!”

A few blocks later, he plows right through a red light. I say, “You just ran a red light.” And he says, “I drive like my brother!”

So now we’re coming up on a green light, and he slows down. I’m confused, so I say, “It’s green; why are you slowing down?”

He says, “My brother might be coming.”

* I got my first full-time job, but I could have sworn I was making more money in college, working for my parents as their daughter.
* My young son ran to me, crying. “Daddy, I stubbed my toe,” he sobbed.

“Let me kiss it and make it better,” I said. “Which toe was it?”

“The one that has no roast beef.”

* A Scottish mother visits her  son in his New York City apartment and asks, “How do you find the Americans, Donald?”

“Mother,” says Donald, “they’re such noisy people. One neighbor won’t stop banging his head against the wall, while the other screams and screams all night long.”

“Oh, Donald! How do you manage to put up with them?”

“What can I do? I just lie in bed quietly, playing my bagpipes.”

I want the best for my family. It is a great weight on me when my family is not experiencing the best because of grudges, misunderstandings, arguments, or even a cold lack of affection.

Jesus wants the best for your family too!

**John 10:7-10**

**7**Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8**All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. **9**I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. **10**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

* Satan has a plan to steal from your family, kill your family, and destroy your family.
  + He wants to see your family in
    - Poverty
    - Sickness
    - Pain
* **Jesus has a plan to give your family life more abundantly.**
  + He wants to see your family in
    - Wealth
    - Health
    - Joy

# The Hope of the Gospel

**The greatest hope for all of our families is the telling of the Gospel and the living out of the Gospel in our lives.**

**Romans 1:16-17** (NLT)

**16**For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. **17**This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

* **The Good News about Jesus—the Gospel—is that Jesus died for our sins, was buried for three days, and then rose from the dead to be seated beside God the Father in heaven interceding for us.**
  + If we believe this with our hearts, confess it with our mouths, and live our lives accordingly, our families will change for the better!
  + This works for everyone—parents, spouses, children, grandparents, etc.

# The Hope of Prayer

Another great hope we have for the salvation of our families is prayer.

**Genesis 18:16-19:29** (NLT)

**16**Then the men got up from their meal and looked out toward Sodom. As they left, Abraham went with them to send them on their way.

**17**“Should I hide my plan from Abraham?” the Lord asked. **18**“For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. **19**I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised.”

**20**So the Lord told Abraham, “I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant. **21**I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard. If not, I want to know.”

**22**The other men turned and headed toward Sodom, but the Lord remained with Abraham. **23**Abraham approached him and said, “Will you sweep away both the righteous and the wicked? **24**Suppose you find fifty righteous people living there in the city—will you still sweep it away and not spare it for their sakes? **25**Surely you wouldn’t do such a thing, destroying the righteous along with the wicked. Why, you would be treating the righteous and the wicked exactly the same! Surely you wouldn’t do that! Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?”

**26**And the Lord replied, “If I find fifty righteous people in Sodom, I will spare the entire city for their sake.”

**27**Then Abraham spoke again. “Since I have begun, let me speak further to my Lord, even though I am but dust and ashes. **28**Suppose there are only forty-five righteous people rather than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?”

And the Lord said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five righteous people there.”

**29**Then Abraham pressed his request further. “Suppose there are only forty?”

And the Lord replied, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the forty.”

**30**“Please don’t be angry, my Lord,” Abraham pleaded. “Let me speak—suppose only thirty righteous people are found?”

And the Lord replied, “I will not destroy it if I find thirty.”

**31**Then Abraham said, “Since I have dared to speak to the Lord, let me continue—suppose there are only twenty?”

And the Lord replied, “Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the twenty.”

**32**Finally, Abraham said, “Lord, please don’t be angry with me if I speak one more time. Suppose only ten are found there?”

And the Lord replied, “Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”

**33**When the Lord had finished his conversation with Abraham, he went on his way, and Abraham returned to his tent.

* **Be persistent in prayer.**

**19**That evening the two angels came to the entrance of the city of Sodom. Lot was sitting there, and when he saw them, he stood up to meet them. Then he welcomed them and bowed with his face to the ground. **2**“My lords,” he said, “come to my home to wash your feet, and be my guests for the night. You may then get up early in the morning and be on your way again.”

“Oh no,” they replied. “We’ll just spend the night out here in the city square.”

**3**But Lot insisted, so at last they went home with him. Lot prepared a feast for them, complete with fresh bread made without yeast, and they ate. **4**But before they retired for the night, all the men of Sodom, young and old, came from all over the city and surrounded the house. **5**They shouted to Lot, “Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them!”

**6**So Lot stepped outside to talk to them, shutting the door behind him. **7**“Please, my brothers,” he begged, “don’t do such a wicked thing. **8**Look, I have two virgin daughters. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do with them as you wish. But please, leave these men alone, for they are my guests and are under my protection.”

**9**“Stand back!” they shouted. “This fellow came to town as an outsider, and now he’s acting like our judge! We’ll treat you far worse than those other men!” And they lunged toward Lot to break down the door.

**10**But the two angels[a] reached out, pulled Lot into the house, and bolted the door. **11**Then they blinded all the men, young and old, who were at the door of the house, so they gave up trying to get inside.

**12**Meanwhile, the angels questioned Lot. “Do you have any other relatives here in the city?” they asked. “Get them out of this place—your sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone else. **13**For we are about to destroy this city completely. The outcry against this place is so great it has reached the Lord, and he has sent us to destroy it.”

**14**So Lot rushed out to tell his daughters’ fiancés, “Quick, get out of the city! The Lord is about to destroy it.” But the young men thought he was only joking.

**15**At dawn the next morning the angels became insistent. “Hurry,” they said to Lot. “Take your wife and your two daughters who are here. Get out right now, or you will be swept away in the destruction of the city!”

**16**When Lot still hesitated, the angels seized his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and rushed them to safety outside the city, for the Lord was merciful. **17**When they were safely out of the city, one of the angels ordered, “Run for your lives! And don’t look back or stop anywhere in the valley! Escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away!”

**18**“Oh no, my lord!” Lot begged. **19**“You have been so gracious to me and saved my life, and you have shown such great kindness. But I cannot go to the mountains. Disaster would catch up to me there, and I would soon die. **20**See, there is a small village nearby. Please let me go there instead; don’t you see how small it is? Then my life will be saved.”

**21**“All right,” the angel said, “I will grant your request. I will not destroy the little village. **22**But hurry! Escape to it, for I can do nothing until you arrive there.” (This explains why that village was known as Zoar, which means “little place.”)

**23**Lot reached the village just as the sun was rising over the horizon. **24**Then the Lord rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah. **25**He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation. **26**But Lot’s wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt.

**27**Abraham got up early that morning and hurried out to the place where he had stood in the Lord’s presence. **28**He looked out across the plain toward Sodom and Gomorrah and watched as columns of smoke rose from the cities like smoke from a furnace.

**29**But God had listened to Abraham’s request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain.

* God *listened* to Abraham’s request and kept his family safe! God removed his family from disaster.
* Never give up on praying for the health, success, safety, and joy of your family.
  + **God hears your prayers for your family!**

# The Hope of God’s Promises

**When you are living life the way God wants you to live life, He will always deliver on His promises to you.**

* And that is only true because when we are living life the way He wants us to, He is free to work things out in our lives for good.
* When we don’t live a life that corresponds with God’s way of doing things, the natural consequences of sin hinder His work to bring about good in your life.

Here are some promises to hold onto when the going gets tough…

* **Proverbs 22:6** (NKJV)

Train up a child in the way he should go,

And when he is old he will not depart from it.

* **Psalm 16:5-6** (NLT)

Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing.

You guard all that is mine.

**6**

The land you have given me is a pleasant land.

What a wonderful inheritance!

* **Acts 16:31** (NLT)

**31**They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.”

* **1 Corinthians 7:12-14** (NLT)

**12**Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a fellow believer has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. **13**And if a believing woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him. **14**For the believing wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the believing husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy.

# The Hope of Christ

**Colossians 1:27** (NKJV)

**27**To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

* **Too much in our families’ stories being us shame—not glory; but Jesus in you is the hope of glory.**
* Jesus in you will transform your family into a unit that others look to as inspiration that there is hope of having a good family even in the worst family moments.
* Even when my family is experiencing one of those horrible, chaotic nights full of yelling, panic, or desperation, I can rest assured that Jesus is interceding for my family. And Jesus’ prayers are always answered.