

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study for November 11, 2021

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Title: "When You are Disappointed"

Subtitle: "God's Recipe For Leftovers"

Scripture Reference: Genesis 13:5-9

"And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: *If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.*"

I. Introduction

- A. For some people, food that is leftover after a meal is their least favorite thing to eat the next day. Maybe it's the aging process that bothers them.
- B. Many times, after food has been leftover it looks and tastes different. On the other hand, some leftover food seems to taste much better the second time around.
- C. Alternatively, when food has been left over for so long that you can't remember when it was first served, it may be safer for health reasons, to dispose of it. Having said that, if this is the only food you have, and you are sure that it doesn't pose a health risk, give God thanks and eat the leftovers.
- D. Right here I have a question for you. Did you know that God

has a recipe for leftovers? He doesn't want you to throw leftovers away because He has a plan for them.

E. Here is what I mean - Leftovers are those situations that are less than ideal. You end up with what appears to be second best, or what is leftover.

F. Maybe your spouse left you for someone else, leaving you to raise three children by yourself.

G. Perhaps you are a victim of circumstances. You may have had a very rough childhood or you came from a broken family.

H. Perhaps you haven't had the opportunities other people have had. Or maybe the other person got the promotion on the job instead of you.

I. Leftovers! You are disappointed because your expectations have not been met, and you think that life offers you very little hope.

J. Are you tired of eating leftovers? Well, you need to understand that God doesn't want to just bless your leftovers. Sometimes, He actually ordains them. ((Stay with me and I'll lay this out for you.))

II. Discussion (Part I) - Leftovers: Second-Choice Casserole

A. In Genesis Chapter 13, Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen argued because their herds became too large, and the land could no longer sustain them.

B. Abram told Lot, "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left." (Genesis 13:8,9)

C. This was unusual because Abram had the right to choose first. He was the elder, the one who helped Lot get established in his

livestock business. Yet Abram gave Lot the right to choose first.

D. **Why?** Because Abram believed leftovers were ordained by God. Even though someone else got to choose first, God would bless whatever was left over.

E. What would normally be destined for the garbage disposal is salvaged by God and prepared as another meal.

F. After God adds His spice to the leftovers, scraps become sacred. Trash turns into treasure, and burdens into blessings.

Thank You Lord!!

G. When Abram surrendered the first pick to Lot, he had unwavering faith by believing that God controlled events that were totally out of his hands. And this was no small decision.

H. Although Abram didn't know it at the time, the entire future of the nation of Israel was at stake on the outcome of this decision. ((Please read along with me and listen very carefully to Genesis 13:10.))

"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar." (Gen. 13:10)

I. Lot saw the green valley of Sodom and Gomorrah and thought, "This green pasture would be great for all my livestock. Plenty of water is there too. That's the best choice. I'll take it."

J. So, without even considering what would happen to Abram, Lot selfishly chose Sodom. At first, it looked like Lot made the best choice.

Comment: When someone else chooses first, they appear to get the upper hand, but the game isn't over after the first inning.

Point: The first choice is not always the best or the blessed.

K. Not long after Lot arrived in Sodom, Lot was kidnapped by armies that had invaded Sodom. Abram had to go and rescue him (Genesis 14:1-16).

L. Then Lot found out that because the people in Sodom were exceedingly wicked, God was going to destroy the city (Genesis Chapter 19).

Comments:

- (1) Lot never thought his dream home could turn into such a nightmare.
- (2) When you choose your own way, it never turns out like you think it will.

"And the Lord said unto Abram, after that lot was separated from him, lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward. For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." (Genesis 13:14-15)

SOLID ROCK ARE YOU LISTENING?

Seed - Soil - You fill in the rest of this!

"And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth so that if man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered." (Gen. 13:16)

M. After Lot made his choice of land, God said He would give what was left over to Abram and his descendants forever. The leftovers turned out to be the **Promised Land!**

Comments:

- (1) God loves to bless a submissive and yielding spirit. Abram had that kind of spirit.
- (2) You can become bitter for receiving leftovers, or you can see God giving you a promised land.
- (3) If you look with the eye of faith, you will see that leftovers

are really blessings ordained by God.

III. Discussion (Part II) - Canaanite Crumb Cake

A. In Matthew 15:21-28, a Canaanite woman begged Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter. The first time she asked, Jesus gave her no answer.

B. Most people would have gone home disappointed and dejected, thinking He would grant their request. But this woman knew no answer didn't necessarily mean a "No" answer. Because she refused to leave, Jesus' disciples tried to send her away. The welcome mat was not out for this Gentile woman.

C. Jesus told her, "**I am not sent but unto the last sheep of the house of Israel.**" That's good news for Jews. But if you were a Canaanite woman, that's not what you wanted to hear. Because she was a Gentile, she was not a part of the house of Israel. Even though she was excluded, she persisted.

D. Jesus then added, "**It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.**" The children were the Jewish people, while the dogs were Gentiles. That meant no plates were set for Gentile people at the Jewish table.

Comment: It appeared to everyone but this woman that Jesus wasn't going to heal her daughter.

E. Rather than giving up on her request, the Canaanite woman seized upon Jesus's illustration. She answered, "Truth Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table."

F. She wasn't asking to sit at the table; she was asking for the opportunity to sit under the table.

Comment: Her tenacity (i.e., her determination) made her refuse to take no for an answer.

G. Her attitude was, I'll eat whatever falls from the table; I'll

take leftovers.

H. Because she was not of the Jewish race, this Gentile woman didn't have the opportunities to receive from the Messiah like the Israelites had. But she had a much greater understanding than the Jews concerning God's ability to bless.

I. All she needed was, not an entire meal, but one small crumb. She knew that one touch from the Master's hand would transform a crumb into a healing for her daughter. She had the ability to see that leftovers are really camouflaged miracles.

J. Jesus wasn't trying to discourage her faith through His answers. He was trying to develop it and because she passed each test, Jesus told her, "**O woman; great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt (i.e., be it done for you as you wish).**" (Matthew 15:28)

Her daughter was immediately healed!

K. Perhaps you haven't had the opportunities others have had. You find yourself under the table, begging for scraps. Learn a lesson from this Gentile woman.

- Don't complain because you can't sit at the head of the table.
- Grab the leftovers, then ask God to bless them.

IV. Discussion (Part III) - Andrew's Fish and Chips

A. In John Chapter 6, a great multitude followed Jesus and they became hungry. In an attempt to solve the problem, Andrew found a boy with five barley loaves and two fish. (John 6:8,9)

B. Jesus took the loaves and fish, blessed them, miraculously multiplied the food to feed five thousand people, and there was enough left over to fill twelve baskets.

C. Jesus then instructed the disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." (John 6:12) Jesus didn't want the leftovers to be thrown away because He planned to serve them again.

Point: Don't throw your leftovers away. Trust God to do something good with them.

V. Amplifying Information For Your Consideration

A. Here is a true story I would like for you to consider. As a senior at Wheaton College, Ken and several friends took an aptitude test for medical school. All of his friends, including his brother, passed the test; Ken failed it. He was depressed by this closed door.

B. However, this closed door pointed him to the open door of Christian Ministry. Ken Taylor went on to paraphrase the Living Bible and start Tyndale House Publishers.

C. Ken might have never accomplished these things had it not been for an early failure in his life. God had plans for his second choice, not his first.

D. Ken wrote about that early failure: "It was a long time before I came to realize that I was being given clear guidance about what God wanted my future to be. I should have been grateful instead of disappointed." [Taylor, Ken. **My Life: A Guided Tour.** Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1991, 75.]

E. It doesn't matter how your leftovers got to be leftovers - whether you made a mess out of your own life or whether you are a victim of circumstances.

F. What does matter is whether or not you allow God to bless your leftovers. Just like Jesus blessed the fragments of bread, he can bless the fragments of your life.

G. God will take you in your present situation, and if you will surrender your circumstances to Him, He will turn your leftovers into a gourmet meal.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages below by filling in the blank spaces. As usual, all Scripture passages have been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"But seek ye _____ the _____ of God, and his _____; and all these things shall be _____ unto you."
[Matthew 6:33]

"Be _____ for _____, but in every thing by _____ and _____ with _____ let your requests be _____ unto God."
[Philippians 4:6]

"But when ye pray, use not vain _____, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be _____ for their much _____. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your _____ knoweth what things ye have _____ of, _____ ye ask him."
[Matthew 6:7,8]

"But my God shall _____ all of your _____ according to his _____ in _____ by Christ Jesus."
[Philippians 4:19]

Note: Please take some time and read Deuteronomy Chapter 28:1-14. This chapter was specifically addressed to the Nation of Israel. The first fourteen verses can be titled: "**The Blessings of Obedience.**" Verses 15-68 cover - "The Punishment For Disobedience." For those who have sat under my teachings for many years, you may recall that I informed you that "all of the Bible was not written to us, but all of the Bible is for us."

With that understanding, as you read Deut. 28:1-14 and also the Old and New Testaments, remember Romans 15:4 - "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

BLESSING THE LEFTOVERS

- Write on a piece of paper the leftovers you have received. Rather than complaining about them (if that's what you have been doing), commit your leftovers to God, and ask Him to bless them.

Try this prayer (with a sincere heart); it may help.
"Dear Father in Heaven, I ask you to forgive me for being angry, bitter, or even upset about my circumstances. I know You have the ability to take any situation and work it according to your perfect will. Therefore, I surrender my leftovers to you right now, and I ask you to bless them. Thank You!

In Jesus' name, Amen."

I pray that this lesson has been helpful and a blessing to you. Please don't hesitate to share what you have gleaned with others.

In the Master's Service.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin