

Shawnee Presbyterian Church
Sunday, August 12, 2020
Mrs. Chera Wertz
“Trust Me!”

Story of failed adoption ...

The story that I just told you is not to make you feel bad for my husband and I, it's a story of God's will and a lesson in trust. At the time I had difficulty understanding why God had led us to Washington DC that day only to send us home with empty arms. Although the adoption failed, when I look back on the events of that day, we prayed that everything would be according to His will. We needed to trust God, but I honestly think we forgot to do that. His will at that time was to bring hundreds of people together to pray for the birth mom and that she would make the best decision for her and her daughter. We needed to trust God that she was doing exactly that.

At the end of the day we felt alone and felt like we were alone and in the dark. Who do we look to for help when we seem to be all alone and in total darkness as life tosses us about? Sometimes Jesus sends us forth ahead of Him. Perhaps it's because Jesus has a special miracle planned for us. When Jesus sends us forth, we may be tossed by the waves. Sometimes we doubt our calling. Jesus knows a storm is coming, winds of false doctrine, waves of temptation, and storms of mistreatment. We must walk by faith and not by sight. Having faith at the beginning and at the end of a journey is easy, sometimes in the middle things get tough. Especially if we don't keep our eyes on Jesus. Sometimes we go through most of the night before Jesus comes. He may come with a miracle or supernatural events, like walking on water. God often intervenes just before we lose hope. Jesus wants to teach us faith.

Is faith the same thing as trust? If not what is the difference? Faith is a noun; it is something we have. But faith is not trust. Trust is a verb; trust is something we do. Trust is faith in action. It is the manifestation of our faith in our thoughts and actions. While faith says He Can, trust says He is, and I will think and act accordingly. We say we trust God but we don't. Just like the US dollar in God we trust, but not really.

In our Gospel reading this morning Matthew 14:27-33 tells the story of the disciples seeing Jesus walk on water and being afraid because they thought it was a ghost. Jesus said to them, “Take courage! It is I don't be afraid.” “Lord is it you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind he was afraid and beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” He said, “why did you doubt?” Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and started to sink. How many times has something started to or gone wrong in our lives and we have taken our eyes off of Jesus and started to sink? One of my favorite songs by Casting Crowns states, “Oh what I would do to have the kind of faith it takes to climb out of the boat I'm in onto the crashing waves. To step out of my comfort zone into the realm of the unknown where Jesus is and he's holding out his hand.” The song goes on to say the waves are lagging and telling me time and time again that I'll never win. But that God's voice, the voice of truth, is there calling my name

and saying to not be afraid. This song is my reminder to not take my eyes off of God. I can give you several different reasons why we should trust God. The main reason is when we trust God He guides us. Our part is to do the trusting, His part is to do the guiding. When we trust God it can make a huge difference in our lives. When we put our trust in God we put all our weight on Him. We either give Him all of our trust or none at all. Half-hearted trust is like whole-hearted doubt. Have we ever stopped and asked ourselves why we don't give God all of our trust. Has He ever given us a reason not to trust Him? So we have to ask ourselves, "Are we going to trust God?" Trusting God can often be a lesson in patience. Many times if we sit back and continue to pray and put our trust in God, our full trust, all of our trust, God's plan will unfold right before our eyes.

Three days after the failed adoption we were sent information about a baby being born a few weeks later. He was going to be born at the hospital where I was born, three and a half hours away from the adoption agency. My family still lives near that hospital. My husband and I prayed about this situation and put all of our trust in God. On September 15, 2015, we met our son who was just hours old. We put our trust in God that the biological parents would not change their minds. We prayed hard and trusted more. In Pennsylvania a biological parent has 33 days to change their mind. 33 days...33 years. Jesus' age when He died on the cross. Thankfully, those 33 days passed without incident and we could proceed with the adoption. Now we can't imagine our lives with any other child except our son. Caleb was chosen just for us to be our son. Trusting in God, His timing, His plans. Trust in God always, do not be afraid to trust Him. Never take your eyes off of Him, He's holding out His hand saying, "Trust me! Trust me!"

Amen