
The Gospel of John: That You May Believe*"Assurance"**John 8: 31-47*

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

"For you are looking, not at the object of your faith, at Jesus, but at your faith. You would draw your comfort, not from Him, but from your faith. And because your faith is not quite perfect, you are as much discouraged as if Jesus was not quite a perfect Savior... by this mistake, and by this great sin, the sin of sins, you are robbed of the sweet enjoyment of the God of all comfort. You lose what you seek, and lose it in the way of seeking. You want comfort, and you look to your faith for it. If faith could speak it would say, 'I have none to give you, look unto Jesus, it is all in Him' Indeed my friend it is. The Holy Ghost, the Comforter, will not glorify your faith. he will not give it the honor of comforting you. he takes nothing to comfort with but the things of Christ - and His things, not as used by you, but as given by Him, who is all yours... I grant you, and I know it well, that much faith brings much comfort from Christ, and carries much glory to Him; but the way to get much faith is not to look at it, as you do, but at the Savior; not to look at your hand, but at Jesus; not how you hold Him, but that He is yours, and holds you, and your faith too, and therefore you shall never perish, but shall have everlasting life." - William Romaine

"I am throwing all my good works overboard, and lashing myself to the plank of free grace; for I hope to swim to glory on it." - Charles Spurgeon

"All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." - Romans 8: 14-16

"[Abraham] believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness." - Genesis 15:6

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered? What is God showing you about Himself and yourself in this passage?
- What are a few relationships, circumstances, and longings in which you crave assurance and an affirmation that you are on the right track? How do you usually gauge and measure that assurance?
- What does abiding in God's word look like in practice? For you personally?
 - What is the result of finding a home in God's Word?
- Why are false assurances disabling and enslaving?
- Jesus' tone and language with the folks in this passage are different than with the Samaritan woman he meets at the well in John 4. They have an edge and seem intentionally disruptive and perhaps lacking compassion.
 - Why would Jesus speak so directly and candidly?
 - What is his aim for them and for us?