

“When Did Your Parents First Disappoint You?”

Matthew 27:45-50

Preached by Dr. Bob Browning, Pastor

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Stone Mountain, Georgia

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11:00 Service

Disciple Now Weekend

How old were you when you realized your parents were not going to meet all your expectations. It hit me hard around the time I was seventeen. I had my heart set on a car that someone wanted to sell. It was a Mustang, a car that can still turn my head.

I approached my dad and asked if he could get it for me. I had a part-time job and could pay some on it, but not nearly enough. He said no. Of course, I did not take this as his final answer and continued to mention it to him. Finally, he looked at me and said this would be our last discussion about this car. He was in no shape financially to buy me a car and that was final.

Did my dad want to get me that car? Probably. Did he want to disappoint me? Certainly not. Was he honest when he said he could not afford it? He sure was. Was I disappointed? You bet. Was I upset? You know the answer to that.

I think what upset me as much as anything was that I had to come to terms with reality. I had to face facts and come out of my dream world. My dad could not do everything and meet all my expectations.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Someone was terribly disappointed because their expectations were not being met.

You know these were the words of Jesus on the cross. They had to be as painful to say as they were to hear.

This morning, I want to use this penetrating question to talk to our young people. In the earlier service, I took another approach, connecting the words of Jesus to Psalm 22 and looking at the relationship between questions and faith. I want to go in another direction in this service, though.

This is Disciple Now weekend, which is an annual event in our church. Our youth have been together in the homes of church members studying scripture and fellowshiping. From the stories I have heard, they have had a great weekend. How grateful I am for all who made this event so special, especially their hosts and leaders.

Here is my message to our youth this morning. **Your parents are not going to meet all your expectations and neither is God.**

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” These were the words of a thirty-three year-old young man in the prime of his life to his Father and God. They are saturated with shock and disappointment. It was as if Jesus was saying that if God could not remove this cup of death from him, He could at least come and help him die. And God did neither.

Young people, your parents are not going to meet all your expectations and neither is God. Requests for cars, entrance into the college of your choice or cures for sick family members may or may not be granted. There are no guarantees. When they are not granted, in all likelihood, you are going to be shocked, dismayed, angry, frustrated and maybe rebellious.

There is something else I want you to know, though. **Just because your parents and God don't meet your expectations, it doesn't mean they don't love you or are indifferent to your needs.**

Did God no longer love Jesus? Is this why He did not come to him on the cross? Absolutely not. He was as proud of His son on this day as He was the day of Jesus' baptism when He said, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

However, there were valid reasons for God's absence. Even He could not reverse the events that occurred and take His son's pain and agony away.

But as soon as He could help His son, He did. Three days later He rocked the world by rolling a stone away to reveal an empty tomb and a risen Savior. In other words, God did what He could when He could for Jesus and He will for us, too.

This morning, I don't know what disappointment you are carrying in your heart, but I know this. God is aware of it. He hears your plea for help and cries with you while at the same time working behind the scenes to bring joy from sorrow and victory from failure.

So be patient. Hold on to your faith. Pour out your heart to Him. Express your needs, frustrations and disappointments. But never forget that God loves you especially when you are hurting, will help you carry your burden and will respond to your need when the opportunity and time are right.

Last week I was invited by Tucker High School Principal Scott Butler to speak at the ceremony honoring Coach Billy Venable. The gymnasium was named in his memory. You recall that Coach Venable and his seventeen-year-old son, Bill, were killed by an intruder into their home. It has been over a year since this tragedy occurred, but tears still flow easily.

On the program that evening was Ben Lewis, Director of Young Life for Tucker High. He wrote and sang the song "Why?" One line from the refrain was, "Why, oh why, did such an awful day come here? God, where are you? How we need to know you are here."

Our young people need to know that God is here, too. And I can say with great confidence that He is. Will He do everything they want Him to do? No. Will He help them handle their disappointments, carry their grief and turn failure into victory? Yes. Just ask Jesus.