

TRUST ME

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Matt. 7:7-12

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One day, shortly after the birth of their new baby, the mother had to go out to do some errands, so the proud father stayed home to watch his wonderful new son. Soon, the baby started to cry. The father did everything he could think of, but the baby just wouldn't stop crying. Finally, he got so worried that he decided to take the infant to the doctor.

After the doctor listened to all the father had done to get the baby to stop crying, he began examining the baby's ears, chest and then down to the diaper area. When he opened the diaper, it was indeed full. "Here's the problem," the doctor explained. "He just needs to be changed." The perplexed father remarked, "But the diaper package specifically says, it's good for up to 10 pounds!"

Well, it's Father's Day, and I thought about my being a father – of my responsibilities over the years toward my children, and how I hope (besides changing them before the poundage was reached) that among what I taught through words and action was trust. That my children could rely on me, that they could trust me. How very pivotal is being able to trust!

And thanks to Shelley, (one of our newer members) and her research I have this information.

It turns out that the highest factor in someone making a decision to purchase something from a salesperson is; the level of trust in the salesperson.

Interesting, but in a way no surprise – because trust is foundational in living, "living well", our lives.

Each and every one of us relies on and thrives on trust. It is so woven into our public and private lives. Often we just take it for granted, unless our trust has been betrayed. My guess is every one of you has experienced a time, or times when trust has been shaken or destroyed. Someone you trusted proved untrustworthy. This is often devastating. We are thrown into a quagmire of hurt, anger and confusion. We desperately wonder and fear that we will never be able to trust again. For some, it will take a long time before any trust can once again be offered. Trust is extremely fragile! Trust is a major building block for all relationships, public and private.

How sad, if someone has given up on trust. Tragic is perhaps a more appropriate description. For not to trust eclipses the possibilities of entering into shared human relationships.

Scars and all, we must not give up on trust. It is akin to the air we breathe. Without trust, social life is basically impossible. All of our daily activities reflect multiple levels of trust. Walking down the street. Driving your car (trusting the steering will work, the brakes will engage, the exhaust will stay outside, etc.) Depositing your payroll check in the bank. Buying a Starbucks coffee at Barnes and Noble, trusting hygienic standards.

Trust. Trust. Trust. It is difficult to imagine the anarchy that would ensue if all, or a significant amount of human trust was depleted.

Certainly blind trust is not a positive option. Whereas trust is fundamental for our lives, so is a healthy sense of skepticism; both public and private. But, we need high levels of trust for our health as a society and as individuals.

There appears to be a direct correlation between fostering trust in government and believing that people are trustworthy. In other words, if you reject that people can be, or are trustworthy, then you will probably also mistrust our social institutions and not be involved to change them. Add to this, that interpersonal trust has been in steady decline for quite some time. We need to be involved together in civic (religious) organizations. This will garner trust among us.

We must not take the subject of trust lightly! Not only does your personal well being depend on a certain level of trust, but our very society is dependant on trust.

“Trust me.” You need a healthy dose of trust in your life. If you have been consistently betrayed, over and over and over again, do not throw out trust, but perhaps it would be beneficial to talk to someone, a therapist, psychologist, a counselor, a pastor, to map out a way to trust again, but carefully, and not blindly.

There are certain people in my life that I trust, my wife Shawn, my children, my mother and others.

Jesus knows that we humans need to trust. He also knows that we need to be trustworthy. It is indeed a two way street.

Jesus looks out over the people gathered around him. He sees some friends, acquaintances, members of his community, and many strangers. He knows there are fathers among them. There's Amos. He has nine children and a lovely wife, Sara. Over there, near that large olive tree are Isaac and Mary. They have only one child. She is the sum of their lives. Jesus recalls how Mary and Joseph raised him. They didn't have much money. But Joe always provided. Food, meager as it was, was always on the table. I imagine Jesus thinking lovingly of his deceased earthly father Joseph, as he continues (a tear on his cheek)...

“Dads, is there anyone of you who, when your son asks for some bread, you would give him a stone instead? If your son asks for a fish, would you give him a snake?” Jesus is mocking substitutes to make his point. There was a striking resemblance between the flat cakes of bread and the stones around them, and between eel-like fish and snakes. Would you treat your son in this way? Would you betray his trust? And of course, the implied answer is No! Never!

Now Matthew is a bit hard on us, calling us evil. Basically his is comparing our fatherly human actions to God's actions. For him there was no comparison. But there is a relationship.

Certainly - human fathers and mothers can be trusted. Their sons and daughters learn (hopefully) to trust their parents. If you can trust your “not perfect” parents, then by all means you can trust your Heavenly Parent. Trust is primal!

Now, if you have trouble believing in a trustworthy God, perhaps you need to look back to your childhood, and begin to unpack the mistrust that has been accumulating all these years.

To trust in God, is to trust in life!

To trust in God is to see that trust is available through other human beings. Tragically, some fathers, mothers perversely feed their children's souls stones and snakes, and these children grow into adults filled with mistrust and fear. Their image of God is untrustworthy. All of life is permeated with this mistrust. But this is not God! Thank God that paradigm is not the norm! We imperfect fathers and mothers know what our children need, and we supply their needs-physically, emotionally and spiritually.

If you were given a stone or a snake sometime in your life by someone you should have been able to trust, and have been barely surviving on such small doses of trust, begin a new journey toward trust. Begin today the journey of discovery. I would like to help. Trust me. Talk to me. Consider there are fathers, mothers who have been trustworthy. They indeed exist. Consider if they can be trusted, why not the God of the universe? Why not life!?

Could Mom and Dad outpace the one who began it all?

Trust.

Trust in the God, who is Trustworthy.

A way of life!

Life will begin to open up before your eyes as you take the chance, reach out your hands for sustenance, and find your arms not full of stones or snakes, but full of love and hope!

No more stones. No more snakes. Only trust!

Listen for God's voice in your soul, in the lives of others calling out, Trust me!

Amen.

