God's Tests

Jesse LaRue · Genesis 17:15–19

INTRODUCTION

- We take tests so that we might find out where we are, to find out where we stand.
- It's not a question of whether we'll be tested, but how we'll be tested.
- But we can know that there is always a purpose. God has a reason in mind.

1 God Wants to Find Out Something About Us

Genesis 17:15–19; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:14

- God, when he tests, wants to find out something about us. He wants to know how strong is my faith in him.
- After these things, God tested Abraham. Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering.
- For now I know that you fear God. Seeing that you have not withheld your son, your only son from me.
- He wants to know if he is our master. He wants to know if we are willing to do for him what he was willing to do for us.
- How much we know about him is very much going to determine how much we trust him, how much we obey him.
- He wants to know how badly my goal is heaven. How strongly I am striving to get there.

2 He Wants Us to Find Out Something About Ourselves

Proverbs 3:5–7; Philippians 3:12–14; 1 Corinthians 12:14–20

- I need to test myself. I need to see if I'm passing.
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He will make your paths straight.
- Who are you relying on? Are you relying on God? Or are you relying on yourself? He wants to find out who is the true Lord of your heart.
- Forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- God is going to send trials our way to see just how determined we really are to make it to heaven.
- God tests us so that we can find out what it is we're capable of. And chances are it's a lot more than we think.

3 How Do We Pass These Tests?

2 Timothy 3:16–17; Romans 8:38–39; James 1:12

- First and foremost, we need to fear God. We need to trust in his authority. And we need to submit to his will.
- God has given us abilities, and He expects us to use them, especially in the resistance of sin, in passing these tests.
- Number two, we need to be determined. Remember that nothing in the world can separate us from God.
- If we are patient, if we endure these trials, we will receive a crown of life. So let nothing deter us from that goal.
- I pass it by thinking simply, what would Christ have me do? What would Christ have done? And follow that example.
- And finally, look to the goal. Look to the promises that he has made us that he will give us a home in heaven.

THE CHALLENGE

So how are you this evening? Where are you? Where do you stand? Do you pass or do you fail?

MY NOTES