



Pastor Dave Patterson
BAGGAGE
Part 3: "Disappointment with God"
Sermon Small Group Notes

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than

We all have baggage; some of us just have more years of it.

Baggage: Something we pack or stuff other things into in order to take them with us

Emotional Baggage: Unhealthy emotions from our past that encumber one's freedom, progress, or development

Spiritual Baggage: Any area of your life that is unresolved, that has been pushed deep inside and hidden and is a **hindrance to your spiritual life and destiny**

Disappointment: a. *The feeling we experience when someone fails to meet our expectations.* b. *When we put our hope and trust in someone only to be let down*

Our perspective of God sometimes in seasons of life:

- Inattentive - Uncooperative - Late -

"If God is **silent**, then he must be **absent**--If God doesn't answer my prayer, perhaps he's not a good God." (how we might process unmet expectations)

Your current circumstances are not a true reflection of how God feels about you; they're just current circumstances.

Setups for Disappointment with God:

1. Blaming God for what we have personally created or destroyed.

[Galatians 6.7-8, VOICE]

Make no mistake: God can't be mocked. What you give is what you get. What you sow, you harvest. If you follow your selfish desires, you will harvest destruction.

[Proverbs 19.3, VOICE]

People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then they are angry at The LORD.

[Proverbs 19.3, MSG]

People ruin their lives by their own stupidity, so why does God always get blamed?

2. Justifying decisions that are made apart from prayer, the Word, and wise counsel, then blaming God for the results

[Proverbs 14.12, AMP]

There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.

3. Expecting God to override the freewill of someone you are praying for, then blaming God when they don't change

4. Replacing faith with presumption

5. Holding God responsible for unexplainable pain or loss

6. Interpreting God's apparent absence in our current circumstances as neglect

God is not being held hostage by my negotiations to prove His reality.

[Matthew 11.1-3, NIV]

*After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "**Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?**"*

Have you faced an "un-follow" or "de-friend" moment with Jesus, where you had to decide your direction? To "un-follow" Jesus is to follow after someone else.

[Matthew 11.4-6, NIV]

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor..."

[Matthew 11.6, AMP]

Blessed is anyone who does not stumble in their faith [who is not offended] on account of me.

[Matthew 11.6, NIV]

*"Blessed is **ANYONE** who is not offended because of me."*

Losing the Baggage of Disappointment:

- 1. Repent** (change your mind and direction)
- 2. Pour your heart out to the right person.** (Psalms 21, 102, & 109)
- 3. Re-Build your faith on God's character not His current behavior.**
 - Psalm 119.68: *You are good and do only good.*
 - Psalm 31.19: *How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you.*
 - Psalm 34.8: *Taste and see that The LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*
- 4. Ask God the right question, not "Why Lord?" but rather, "What's next, Lord?"**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. In our everyday relationships, how is trust gained, maintained, and sustained? How does that work when applied to our relationship with God?**
- 2. Have you had any "falling apart" moments, when you felt like God was silent or absent? How did you respond, and what did it take to recover?**
- 3. Which of the six common traps are you most endanger of getting caught in? What has it taken to guard against that?**
- 4. Whose outside input ("outside of my prison") do I invite into my life to keep me from offense and to direct me back to wholehearted faith in Jesus?**
- 5. Why is it not necessary to have signs to know God's character is true? (evidence vs. relationship)**
- 6. Pray for one another about the practical steps you can take to lose the baggage of disappointment.**