

Series: Speak Thou the Things that Become Sound Doctrine

IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD GENESIS 18

Text: Genesis 18:14

Genesis 18:14

¹⁴ Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Introduction:

In our text verse we find a question. This question is the title of our message this morning.

The question is from God to Abraham, it is also a question that you and I should consider as well.

That question is: "Is Anything Too Hard For the Lord?"

We have considered the Omnipresence, and the Omniscience of God.

Today we consider the Omnipotence of God.

This word means infinite power and unlimited authority.

In our text, God had told Abraham that as an old man was going to father a child, well beyond the years of this naturally happening.

Abraham and Sarah began to wonder about this and question the Lord.

This then prompted this question found in our text.

We are going to allow Jeremiah answer that question for us today.

Note Jeremiah 32:17

Jeremiah 32:17

*¹⁷ Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and **there is nothing too hard for thee:***

Often we wonder, “Why God doesn’t do something?”

When we see all the filth, crime, perversion, rebellion and hatred we may wonder “Why doesn’t God do something? Doesn’t God care?”

It certainly is not because it’s too hard for Him to deal with.

I would like to share two thoughts this morning as we try to answer this question.

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. THE MAJESTY OF GOD'S LIMITLESS POWER

Understand that God can do anything He wishes to do except sin and remember forgiven sin.

There is nothing too hard for God. I want you to think of that.

Notice:

A. There Is No Promise that God Will Not Keep

God has made some 30,000 promises and every one of them He will keep because there is nothing too hard for the Lord.

Why are we certain of this?

Numbers 23:19

¹⁹ God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Sadly, we live in a day when individual's word means little whether it's a treaty between nations, a business contract, or marriage vows.

But when God speaks He will keep His Word.

God cannot lie.

Titus 1:2

² In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Do you know why all believers go to Heaven?

God cannot lie.

Illustration:

I heard about an old lady that use to testify about her assurance, and her salvation, and how she knew that she was going to Heaven because she'd repented of her sin received the Lord Jesus Christ.

She was on her deathbed and she was still praising God for that blessed assurance that she had in the Lord and somebody said to her, "Well, suppose you never really make it to Heaven, suppose you find out that God did not keep His Word, that you have lost your soul."

She said, "If I lose my soul God will lose more."

And, the person said, "What would God lose?"

And, she said, "God would lose His honor."

There is no promise that God cannot keep, because nothing is too hard for the Lord.

Not only are there no promise that the God will not keep but note also:

B. There Is No Prayer that God Cannot Answer

Note what we read Jeremiah 33:3:

Jeremiah 33:3

³ Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Note also:

Matthew 21:22

²² And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

There is no prayer that God cannot answer, because "Nothing Is Hard for the Lord."

There no promises that the God will not keep not any prayer that He cannot answer but note also:

C. There Is No Problem that God Cannot Solve

God is the solution for your problems. God is the solution for my problems.

We all have problems, but there is no problem too big for God.

We are reminded in Psalms 37:

Psalm 37:3-5

³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. ⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ⁵ Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

You may be wondering why God hasn't solved your problem.

We must understand:

- God does not work necessarily the way we think He should work.

We are reminded in Isaiah 55:

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹ For as the

heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God does not work on the same thought level that we work on.

We think we have it all figured out how God ought to do it, how God ought to solve our problems.

We would like to instruct the Lord.

Illustration:

I imagine when those fiery serpents were biting those people out there in the wilderness there were people praying, "Oh God, oh God, kill the snakes, kill the snakes."

But, God didn't do that. He had a different way and a better way.

He put a brazen serpent on a pole and said, "Everyone that looks will be healed." They thought God ought to do one thing, God did another, but God solved the problem.

Today we're asking God, "Oh God, why don't you eradicate sin?"

Oh God, why don't you kill all of these snakes? God, why don't you kill the devil?

Why don't you do something?"

God lifts His Son up upon a cross and says, "Believe in Him, receive Him."

You see, God may not do it just the way you think He ought to do it, but there's no problem that God cannot solve.

Sometimes we may say, "Oh, if I were God I would do this. If I were God I would do that."

You better be careful when you do that. God's ways are not your ways. His thoughts are not your thoughts.

There no promises that the God will not keep not any prayer that He cannot answer nor any problem that He cannot solve but note also:

D. There Is No Person that God Cannot Save

Romans 10:12-13

¹² For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. ¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

There has never been a vile enough sinner that the blood of Christ cannot cleanse and save.

Why does it seem like God is not hearing your prayers, or keeping His promises?

That brings me to the second thought I want to share today.

2. THE MYSTERY OF MAN'S LIMITING POWER

We can limit God.

Sinful people can harness the work of God.

You say that doesn't sound right.

Turn with me to Psalms 78

Psalm 78:41

⁴¹ Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

This is speaking of God's people there in the wilderness and God is trying to lead them out of the land of bondage, through the wilderness, into a land that flows with milk and honey.

God wanted to bless them, but they turned their back on God limiting the Holy One of Israel.

This is amazing thought.

Is there anything too hard for the Lord?

Jeremiah tells us no and yet they limited the Holy One of Israel.

To limit means “to set boundaries,” “to hinder.”

You may ask, “How is this possible?”

Let me illustrate it.

Turn with me to Mathew 27.

Matthew 27:1-2

¹ When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: ² And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Now think about this.

He was the One who created the universe.

Without Him there was nothing made.

All things were made by Him and for Him.

He is the One who stated:

Matthew 28:18

¹⁸ *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.***

He was the One who scooped out the seas, and heaped up the mountains, and flung out the sun, the moon and the stars, He's the One who regulates the universe.

Colossians 1:17

¹⁷ *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

And, they tied Him up, they bound Him, and He allowed them to do so.

Now don't think that He could have stopped them if He wanted to.

The Lord said:

John 10:18

¹⁸ *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

The Lord reminded Peter when he cut of the soldier's ear that He could call twelve legions of angels.

We limit the Lord by:

A. Our Unwillingness

Unwillingness will bind the hands of the Lord in your home and in your family.

Note Matthew 23:37:

Matthew 23:37

³⁷ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

The Lord broken hearted wanted to bless them.

He stated it's not because I'm limited, I could have blessed you.

I could have gathered you, I could have fed you like a mother hen feeds her chicks.

I could have protected you like a mother hen protects her chicks, I could have cared for you, and warmed you, and done all of the things that need to be done.

I would have, but you would not!

They limited the Lord by their unwillingness.

Understand:

God want to bless you.

God wants to pour out love, grace, peace, happiness, joy and fulfillment, purpose, forgiveness, God wants give you all of these things but He will never force it on you.

“I would” He says, but “ye would not.”

Often we limit the Lord because of our Unwillingness but also by:

B. Our Unconcern

Note Revelation 3:

Revelation 3:15-20

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy

of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.
¹⁹ *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.* ²⁰ *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Here was a church so lukewarm, so unconcerned, and so lackadaisical that it was actually sickening to God.*

God said you make me want to regurgitate.

And yet to that same church our Lord is standing there knocking at the door.

Why didn't He walk right on in?

Because they limited Him by their unconcern and not opening the door.

Could He have broken down the door?

Absolutely.

We He?

No He allows Himself to be limited.

We limit the Lord with our Unwillingness and Unconcern but also by:

C. Our Unreasonableness

So many of us limit God by our unreasonableness.

Note what we read in Isaiah 1:

Isaiah 1:18

¹⁸ *Come now, and **let us reason together**, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

God wanted these sinful people to be reasonable.

Notice also:

Romans 12:1

¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your **reasonable service**.*

Why does God ask these individuals to do this?

God is limited by unreasonableness.

There are people who refuse to attend church because of what they perceive as hypocrites.

That is being unreasonable.

That's like going to the bank and drawing out all your money and taking it home and burning it in the fireplace because not all money is genuine, some is counterfeit.

You say I done with money because that counterfeit money turned you off.

There are people who will go to Hell because of being unreasonable.

You may know some Christians who don't live the Christian life, but you'll never find any flaw in the Lord.

We often limit the Lord with our Unwillingness, Unconcern and Unreasonableness but also by:

D. Our Uncleanness

Note Isaiah 59:1-2

Isaiah 59:1-2

¹ *Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:*

² *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

Understand:

It's not that God cannot save, it's not that God cannot hear, but uncleanness, unconfessed sin limits the Lord.

There is no sin that He cannot forgive, but He will not forgive any sin that one will not relinquish, that you will not confess, that you will not turn from.

Illustration:

I hear about a little girl who put her hand down a very expensive vase.

They did all that they could to get her hand out but they just couldn't get it out.

Her hand was trapped in this very expensive vase.

Finally they decided the only solution was to brake the expensive vase.

When they did they found her fist clenched up.

They said, "Honey, have you had your fist like that the whole time. She said, "Uh huh." They said, "Why didn't you open your hand?" She said, "I'd drop my penny." She had reached in there and put her hands around a penny that she'd found in that vase and would not drop her penny to let her hand get out.

Often people cling to things like that penny.

God wants to bless them but they are holding onto some sin in their life, they just won't let go.

We often limit the Lord with our Unwillingness, Unconcern, Unreasonableness and Uncleaness but also by:

E. Our Unbelief

Understand there is nothing that limits the Lord like unbelief.

Note what the Lord said in Matthew 13:58

Matthew 13:58

⁵⁸ And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

What was the reason for not many mighty works?

Unbelief.

We too often limit the Holy One of Israel, the Lord because of our unbelief.

Close:

God wants to bless, God wants to do mighty works,
God wants to hear and answer our prayers.

Is anything too hard for the Lord?

No, He is able to do all these things but we often limit
the Lord.

Don't limit the Lord by your unbelief.

Don't tie the Lords hands by unreasonableness, don't
tie them up by unwillingness, don't tie them up with
unconcern, and don't limit the Lord with uncleanness.

There is nothing too hard for the Lord, but often we
limit the Lord in what He wants to do.