

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- March 23
"Vows We Make"

A drowning man once cried to God: "Lord, save me!" He continues to pray: "If you get me out of this, I'll give you half of everything I own." But the waters continue to overwhelm him. He continues to struggle to save his life. So he continues prayer..."I will give you 60 percent Lord if you save me...70 percent...alright 80 percent. It's yours." Suddenly the sea became calm and the man regained his balance and swam safely to shore. As he walked on the beach, he says: "Now, Lord, how about the 10 percent I promised you..."

Funny, but true to life. We do it all the time. Bargaining with God and then when things get better, we change the terms. Let me say that "bargaining with God" may sound like "bribery" or "let's make a deal." That's how we as humans operate. We tend to forget that God knows whether we would "keep the deal" or break it as soon as things get better. God knows that we will turn to Him in hard times.

Have you ever made a vow to God during a time of great distress? Did you make good on your vow when the sorrow passed? Jesus said let your "yes be yes" and your "no be no." How about fulfilling your vows to God? It is not too late since you are still alive.

It is true that the Throne of God is one of Grace for the ill-deserving and the underserving. But it is also true that God expects us to keep our vows we have made to Him. Do you remember when you made your vow? Was it during a terrible marriage; a time of pain and suffering; a time when you faced a "Cul-de-Sac" in your life?

The psalmist said that he paid his vow to God in Psalm 66:13-15. Now it's your turn to do so.

*Here, in thy courts I leave my vow,
And thy rich grace record;
Witness, ye saints, who hear me now,
If I forsake the Lord.*

(Isaac Watts)

Have a blessed week.
Pastor Sewdin