



We'll Always Be With You

Themes: **Comfort in the face of trouble, Control, God's love, Fear, Trust**

Jack tells Joey that no matter where he goes, his parents will always be with him in his heart.

Main Idea

Our love for someone and relationship with them is not dependent upon physical proximity. God is always with us through His Holy Spirit in our lives.

Scene setup:

Jack and Molly have just told Joey that he must go to Ohio to spend a few days with some "friends" of theirs. Jack and Molly's concern about the situation troubles Joey, and he reacts with fear at being separated from his parents.

Scripture

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Psalm 23 (*becomes fresh when we are faced with acute fear*)

Isaiah 41:10

Sermon Notes

Most parents who see this scene have a dramatic reaction – it connects with them on a deep level. It illuminates the fear that they are not able to protect those they love the most. This fear shows their inadequacy and limitations. It also challenges them to believe God is a loving Father and He is protector, comforter and provider – even in the face of great trouble. When they go through very difficult times. When those they love the most are in danger or struggling. When they go through pain and suffering. God is there. He will never leave -- He is trustworthy.



I've Done Everything

Themes: Weakness, Love-Parent's, Desperation, Anger

Jack realizes that he has tried every option and still cannot win this battle. He has been the active participant to keep his son.

Main Idea

There are some battles we can't win in our own strength. We can't control everything, and sometimes we need someone else to fight for us.

Setup

Jack has just returned from Ohio, where he confronted Rip and got into a fight with him. Molly is insistent that they keep their son and believes Jack is giving up. Jack, for the first time in his adult life, realizes he can't control this situation.

Scripture:

Isaiah 40:30-31

Psalm 62:5-8

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Sermon Notes:

There are times in life when we have done all we can do. We have exhausted our resources, listened to God, sought help and pursued God's will and yet we still don't have answers. Or, God seems silent and even cruel. Other times our striving and pursuits leaves us weary and unable to go on. In those times God calls us to rest in Him – to trust Him to work out His purposes in our lives. When we are feeling least capable is when God often shows up in His power.



I Loved Him Like He Was Mine

Themes: Parenthood, Love-Parent's, Humility, Vulnerability

Jack acknowledges that even though Joey wasn't his by birth, he couldn't love him more if he was his own son.

Main Idea

Adoption goes deeper than flesh and blood; hearts are knit together by love. God has chosen us and He loves us fiercely.

Setup

Jack recalls the day they brought Joey home. He wanted a natural son, but when Joey was given to them, he discovered an incredible love for his son.

Scripture

Ephesians 3:16-19

Romans 8:13-21

Sermon Notes

God's love is wide, deep and high. It knows no limit. We have been adopted into His family, grafted in like a branch into a tree. We become a part of His family and have full rights as His sons and daughters. God as our heavenly Father has gone to great lengths to demonstrate His love for us – not only by adopting us, but also by providing for us. Just as Jack is coming face-to-face with the depth of his love for Joey – so we can discover the depth of God's love for us.



You Don't Get to Decide

Themes: God's will, Protection, Legalism

Beth thinks she knows what God's will is for Jack, Molly and Joey, but Bill tells her some things are more important than man's law.

Main Idea

We don't always know God's will in a situation. Sometimes doing the right thing morally means doing the wrong thing in the world's eyes.

Setup

Jack and Molly are going to flee with Joey to protect him from an abusive father, but Beth can only see the legal side of things. Her husband, however, knows the important thing is to save the child's life.

Scripture:

James 1:4-6

Romans 12:1-3

Romans 14:9-11

Sermon Notes:

Human nature longs to manipulate circumstances, to try to control situations to avoid pain, suffering or to exert power to bring about the outcome we desire. Often we find ourselves faced with choices – to intervene or stand by. Sometimes, even after praying, waiting, and seeking counsel, we aren't sure what to do. Beth is confident she knows the right thing to do – it's to keep her sister from breaking the law. Molly is desperate to protect her child and willing to break the law if she must. Both women are faced with a lack of trust – do they trust that God cares more for Joey than they do? And, that perhaps God's ways are even higher than the ways of the law? Answers don't always come easily and that's where our faith is tested.