



An Unexpected Christmas #4 :: Promise Keeper {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

Liars. Adulterers. Criminals. Prostitutes. Murderers. You'll find all these dysfunctional types in Jesus' ancestry. Could the Savior of the world actually be descended from a lowly prostitute and a corrupt king, among others? Absolutely. And that's what makes God's promise of grace all the more amazing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Reality game shows often require various strategies and covert team alliances that result in broken promises and/or deception. Would *you* have any qualms about playing deceptively in the context of a reality game show?
2. In real life, when someone says, "You have my word on it," it means something. When have you said something like this to someone else, but ended up having to break your promise?
3. Read 2 Samuel 7:8-16. God makes a promise to David. What promises do you feel God has made to you?
4. In 2 Samuel 11-12, David makes some huge mistakes leading to some major consequences. What decisions have you made that you felt separated, disqualified, or distanced you from a relationship with God?
5. Matthew's Gospel reminds us that in spite of David's sin, he is still included in Jesus' genealogy; God kept his promise. When have you felt God's grace was bigger than your own shortcomings?
6. What's the difference between negotiating with God and surrendering to God?

MOVING FORWARD

Making a promise is easy. Keeping a promise is much harder. Keeping a promise to someone who consistently treats you wrong is nearly impossible. Yet, despite our sin, God keeps his promise . . . a promise that the door will always be open to a relationship with him. He's gone out of his way to make that possible. So, what's keeping you from taking God up on his promise?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."
-2 Samuel 7:16