

SUNDAY - October 11, 2026

God's Best for Those Who Trust Him

SERMON SUMMARY:

God's will is worth trusting, even when compromise offers an easier path. Israel's unbelief kept them from the promised land despite God's past faithfulness, while Jesus resisted every shortcut by standing on God's Word. Something may look good without being God's best, and grace never makes sin safe. Following Christ creates a desire to leave sin behind and return to Him.

Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman shows that His grace reaches people others overlook. Knowing His heart gives us confidence to approach Him and ask boldly, even after failure. Through Jesus, we can draw near to God, discover His character through His Word, and trust Him with our choices. He can make something beautiful from broken pieces as we surrender to His will.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 4:1-11, John 4:7-15, Numbers 14:1-38

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In Numbers 14, what do the Israelites remember and say after hearing the report about the land, and what do Caleb and Joshua urge them to do?
2. In Matthew 4:1–11, what needs or desires does each of Satan's three temptations appeal to, and how does Jesus answer each one?
3. What does the Samaritan woman seem to understand about "living water" at first, and what does Jesus say this water will do?
4. What barriers made Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman unexpected in John 4?
5. Israel had seen God provide in remarkable ways, yet they did not trust Him at Kadesh Barnea. What does this show about the difference between remembering God's past faithfulness and trusting Him in a present difficulty?
6. Satan's temptations offered Jesus real relief, recognition, and authority, but through a route outside the Father's will. Why can something that appears useful or even good still become a compromise?
7. Jesus answered temptation with God's Word rather than proving Himself or taking control of the situation. What does His response teach about how believers can recognize and resist "shortcuts" in hard seasons?
8. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that if she knew the gift of God and who was speaking to her, she would ask. How does a person's view of God's character affect whether they approach Him with confidence or hold back in shame?
9. Where are you most tempted to take "the next thing"—a quick solution, a small compromise, or a way to get what you want without waiting on God? What makes that option appealing right now?
10. Think of a current hardship in your family, work, health, finances, or relationships. What past faithfulness of God do you need to remember so that fear does not make the decision for you?
11. When you are tired, disappointed, lonely, or under pressure, what kinds of thoughts most often make you question God's care for you? What truth from Scripture could you keep ready to answer those thoughts?
12. Is there an area where grace has been misunderstood as permission to stay comfortable in sin? What would it look like to respond like the prodigal who wants to leave the pigpen rather than settle there?
13. Are there failures or regrets that make you hesitant to ask God for help, direction, or deeper change? What might it look like to come honestly to Him and ask boldly for the "living water" you need?

14. What is one specific way you could seek to know God better this week—through Scripture, prayer, or time with other believers—so that you are less likely to settle for second best?