



Sermon Series: Promises We Can Count On

To be used with Session 1: God's Promise of Fruitfulness

Sermon Title Possibilities: "Made" For Rule

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-30

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study "Promises We Can Count On," this sermon will explore the purpose, position, and promises of God. Genesis Chapter 1 reveals God's desire not only to create for enjoyment but also for partnership. Made in His image, we have been undeservingly given authority to participate in maintaining and expanding God's creation. By emphasizing God's graciousness in entrusting us with a role of authority in His creation, pastors will impart a message of empowerment to listeners, fostering a deeper reverence for God and evoking a worshipful atmosphere to complement this lesson.

Introduction: The basketball coach's son grew bored while watching the team practice. Wanting him to feel involved, the coach assigned him the task of collecting basketballs throughout practice. This simple act transformed the son's demeanor, as he eagerly embraced his new role, infusing the practice with energy and enthusiasm. Similarly, Christianity isn't just about passive participation (just coming to church); it's about actively joining God in His creative process. In Genesis Chapter 1, God not only creates us but also assigns us a role to play in His creation. Verses 26-30 outline God's intentional design for us: to rule and have dominion. These verses reveal God's purpose for us, how He positions us, and the promises He extends to us as we align ourselves with Him in the journey of life because we were "Made to Rule."

- **A Purpose (Genesis 1:26-27).**

The essence of these two verses lies in the purposeful creation of humanity. Verses 26 and 27, they not only reveal the intentional manner in which mankind was fashioned but also underscore the Creator's meticulous preparation for ruling. This seemingly subtle detail accentuates the significance of being crafted with a distinct purpose. It is not uncommon for individuals to grapple with a sense of purposelessness. Yet, within these passages of Scripture, God distinctly establishes humanity's role as rulers over His creation. Rather than merely seeking to discover our purpose, the true quest lies in seeking the One who fashioned us and allowing Him to unveil our purpose. Without the Creator, mankind is adrift, lacking direction. However, when guided by the Creator, our purpose becomes intricately intertwined with Him.

Genesis 1:26-27 serves as a powerful reminder that we are not meant to aimlessly wander through life without purpose. Instead, we are called to cling steadfastly to a God who desires our obedience every second, minute, hour, day, week, month, and year. This passage reminds us of the ruling mandate set before the foundation of the world, urging us to embrace our role as stewards of God's creation with diligence and obedience.

- **A Position (Genesis 1:28).**

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, to be blessed means to be made holy, consecrated, or endowed with divine favor and protection. It is a term used to describe a position or standing with God. This position is not earned based on one's merit but is fully granted by the gracious Creator. In the text, a blessing is presented, but along with it comes a charge. If one is blessed with a position, then they are also equipped to fulfill the charge. In Genesis 1:28, Adam is tasked with being "fruitful and increasing in number; filling the whole earth and subduing it." He's also given dominion over the fish, birds, and every living creature. Here, God establishes an order for Adam to rule creation. The blessing places Adam in a unique position, separate from the rest of creation. Adam can only fulfill the charge because he has been blessed by God with a creation order. By giving Adam a blessing, God equips him for the task at hand. In a like manner, God has positioned our lives to be in a place of authority, just as He did with Adam. We're positioned to be the head, not the tail, to be above, not beneath. Like Adam, we too must walk in our blessed assurance and trust that we can fulfill our purpose because God has positioned us well.

- **A Promise (Genesis 1:29-30).**

In this passage, God has made assurances that He will fulfill. With a commitment to providing every seed-bearing plant, every creature of the earth, and all living beings, God conveyed to Adam that all necessities would be supplied. Reflect on this: if Adam controls every seed-bearing plant, wherever he goes, he can ensure he's surrounded by sustenance for the land. The creatures of the earth, along with all that sustains life, are under Adam's care and provision. Yet, his nutritional and dietary requirements are assured through the promise of every green plant for sustenance. This serves as a reminder of the Lord's role as our provider, especially in times of need. He has equipped us with all essentials if we simply observe how our Jehovah Jireh has met every requirement. Indeed, our worship of the Lord isn't contingent on what He can provide for us. Regardless of the abundance of His provisions for our needs, our worship stems from recognizing God as God—the Creator, sustainer, and the source of all we require. Our fulfillment lies not in His material blessings, but in His essence and presence.

Conclusion: As a Major League Baseball chaplain, I've found joy in observing coaches interact with world-class athletes. Despite their status as top performers in their field, they still require guidance to fully realize their God-given talents. Outfielders, for instance, must attentively heed their coach's instructions to achieve success. While their primary task is to catch the ball, their effectiveness hinges on their ability to listen to the coach. The coach's aim is to position players for victory, and as the game progresses, success is achieved through the collaborative efforts of both coach and player. Similarly, God assures us of success when we collaborate with Him by listening to His voice, responding to His guidance, and trusting in His promises. We can attain success because God has pledged it to us through His Word. Are we training alongside the Coach so that when the time comes, we understand our purpose, stay in position, and receive the promise to secure victories for the Kingdom of God? Having a relationship with Christ is the first step for understanding your purpose, getting in position, to receive the promise.

Author Bio

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