

Friday, November 16, 2018

Sing

Psalm 13-14

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me. Psalm 13:5-6

David was a singer. He made music to the LORD on the harp and with his voice. He loved to dance before the LORD. Here David reveals why he sings to the LORD. He sings because God has been good to him. It is amazing to think about when the context of the psalm is considered. The psalm begins with the phrase, "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?" I love reading the psalms and I love thinking about David's heart and his relationship with God. He sought God's heart. This allowed David to see how the LORD had been good to him, even though, in the moment, it may have felt as if God had hidden His face. David knew that it was God who could bring light to his eyes, it was God who could keep the enemy from overcoming him. David knew the goodness of God. He celebrated that goodness often and sang to the LORD because of it.

I think about singing to the LORD. Singing to the LORD is much different than singing about the LORD. It is also different from singing about me. I need to consider what it means to sing right to the LORD. I want to sing Him a song of adoration because of what He has done—even as I seek Him for His continued goodness to me.

Father, please help me to worship You and sing to You because You have been good to me. Help me learn this so much better. This requires that I know You as I sing to You. It is my prayer for intimacy with You. Amen.

Saturday, November 17, 2018

Shaken

Psalms 15-16

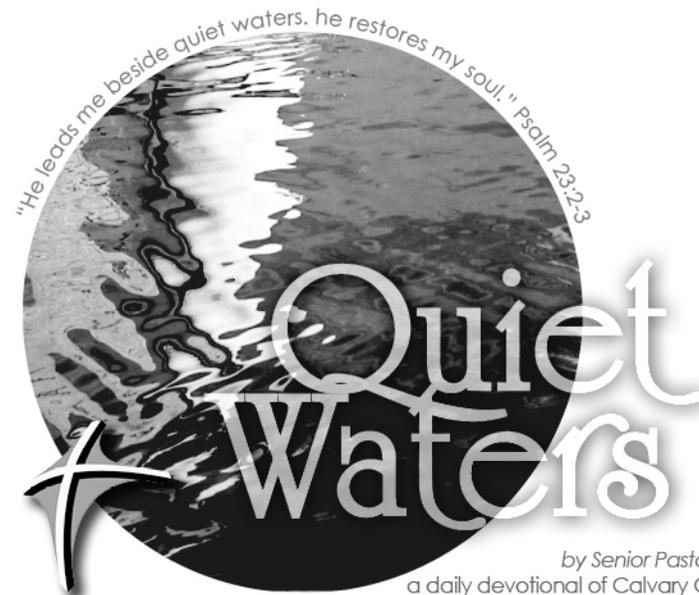
I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:7-8

There were many things happening in David's life that could cause him to be shaken. In this psalm, he rehearses the truths that hold him. These truths are formed in the foundation of David's relationship with God. It is the foundation that keeps a building from being shaken and it is the foundation of conviction that keeps a person from being shaken. In these verses, David reveals that he has his eyes fixed on God—so much so that, even in his sleep, the LORD counsels David in his heart. He sees each situation in his life through the LORD because the LORD is before him. He never walks through anything alone because the LORD is at his right hand. The LORD surrounds David (see Psalm 139:5). David knows God and his faith is in the power and the love of God. He will not be shaken.

When things come into my life that would cause me to be shaken, to be scared, to feel hopeless, to feel undone, what is it that holds me? I choose to make the LORD my counselor. He is my guide. I will mediate on His Word and His truths. He is my Rock and my Foundation. Throughout all that happens to me in this world I will not be shaken because He surely will fill me with joy in His presence. For all my life and beyond, God will hold me secure.

O LORD, because You are with me, I will not be shaken. I hold fast to You and to Your presence in my life. I am confident that You are in the midst of all that is happening in my life and in the world that is and the world that is to come. I trust in You. Amen.

November 12 - 17, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, November 12, 2018

Lament

Psalms 5-6

My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long?

Psalm 6:3

David is again talking to his Father. This time he is using the language of lament, as did Job. This will not be an uncommon language in the psalms. It is, however, an uncommon language for many today. We do not know well how to lament.

Many times, perhaps unintentionally, we are swayed to believe that lament does not have a place in the life of a believer. It is true that I have the Living God indwelling me in the Person of the Holy Spirit and so I can bear the fruit of joy, but that can play out of a heart of lament as well. I am not always apparently joy-filled and at times my soul is in anguish. David seems to have had the same times in his life. David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22) and yet, he had times of deep lament. Lament is crying out to God in the midst of suffering or pain or adversity. It is telling the Father the deepest places of raw emotion, knowing that He cares, that He understands, and that He can sympathize with our situation (Hebrews 4:14-16). But notice how the psalm is resolved in verse 9. "The LORD has heard my cry for mercy." When in lament, it is most important to rest on the promises of God and His attributes and character. "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart" (Ps. 73:26).

Lament does not mean that I do not find joy in the LORD; it means that pain is causing me to look harder and lean more intentionally on what I know to be true.

Father, hear my cries of lament when I am in anguish. In the midst of my anguish, let me trust in You more fully. Reveal Yourself to me, dear LORD. Amen.

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Majestic

Psalms 7-8

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:1

In the first verse of this psalm, we see the LORD as lord. David is recognizing God as master and owner of all. David is again talking to his Father, this time recognizing that the majesty of God as Creator demands recognition of Him as a majestic Master and King. He is One who is worthy and whose name is worthy to be praised. To say that the name of God is "majestic in all the earth" is to say that the very essence of all that God is and all that He represents is to be seen as majestic. This is significant in a day and age of little respect and honor. For David, uttering the name of God was to be considered with respect. Thinking about the work of His fingers made David all the more ready to proclaim the majesty of his Lord and Father. This reminds me of the transcendence of God. But then, David turns to the immanence of God when he declares that praise comes from the lips of children. Almighty God can be known by the smallest of children because He is near.

Who am I that God should be mindful of me and care for me? How can I stop praising the majestic, Almighty God who is intimately involved with all of His creation—including me?

Father, how majestic is Your name in all the earth, but please, LORD, have Your name be majestic in my life and my heart. May You reign over and through me. May Your name be majestic in my heart. At the same time, allow me to understand Your presence in my life and in my circumstances. Amen.

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

All

Psalms 9-10

I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9:1

David is a man who has a heart that pursues God. He pursues God wholeheartedly. His life reveals that he does not follow the LORD perfectly, but he does pursue Him wholeheartedly. I love that about him.

In this psalm, he gives some steps that can be taken to follow the LORD wholeheartedly. First, determine to praise the LORD! Determine to praise Him with all my heart—nothing held back. Second, tell others about all that He has done—all His wonders. That means I need to mediate on His works so that I can boast about them. Next, focus on being glad and rejoicing in God. Set my sights on God for my contentment, my joy, and my very being. I can choose to be glad and rejoice as I allow myself to know God and to abide in Him. Finally, sing praise to His name. This means that I sing praise to the very essence and nature of Elyon (Most High). Elyon is the title of God that focuses on His supremacy in status and power. The LORD is supreme over everything and I can rejoice that everything is under His mighty hand.

I will praise you, O LORD, with ALL my heart!

LORD, please help me resolve to praise You with all my heart. Help me to not have a heart that is divided in any way from my praise and adoration of You. Help me be glad and sing praise to Your name. Give me a boldness to tell of Your wonders—especially as revealed in my life. Amen.

Thursday, November 15, 2018

Refuge

Psalms 11-12

In the LORD I take refuge.

Psalm 11:1

Refuge. It is another word that you will find often as you read the Psalms. David is so clear that it is in the LORD that he takes refuge. It will be stated again and again in the Psalms. Refuge is defined as "a shelter from danger or distress," according to Webster. It is important to realize that I will take refuge *somewhere*. David has learned that it is the LORD in whom he can truly find refuge.

Truthfully, many times I have been tempted to look for refuge in things that are not able to keep me safe—relationships, finances, jobs, home, food, entertainment—and each have failed at some point. When I look to any of these for rescue (or escape), I find myself exposed to danger.

Proverbs 27:12 says, *The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.*

I have found this to be so true in my life. I have kept going and suffered for it. I have also discovered how much greater is the joy of resting in the refuge of the LORD.

Father, help me always find my refuge in You. Keep me alert to danger. Help me see the places that I am vulnerable and then help me run to You, my Shield and Defender. Amen.