

Friday, November 23, 2018

**Remember**

Psalms 25-26

*Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.*  
Psalm 25:6-7

Well, there are certainly many things that the LORD can choose to remember when He considers me. In that way, I can certainly relate to David. God does not forget. God knows every moment of my life. There are many of those moments that I wish God would forget. Many of those moments I can try to forget as well, but they are etched in my memory. I can choose not to remember them. I can choose not to allow those things to identify me. Satan would like me to identify myself by the things that have defeated me. God wants me to be defined not by what I have done, but what He has done for me and in me.

I cry out with David. I ask that God would remember His mercy and love. I ask that He would not give me what I deserve for the sins and rebellious ways of my life. God is good and so I can approach Him and ask Him to remember His mercy as he sees my sin. I can ask this because He has offered His mercy, love, and grace to all who will ask. Because of His love, He chooses to see me just as if I had never sinned.

*O LORD, remember me. Remember me in light of Jesus. Remember me in light of Your mercy. In Your grace, please allow me to remember myself that way as well. Keep me from being paralyzed by the deceiver's voice of accusation. You are a good God. Remember me according to Your love. Remember me as one who loves You as well. Amen.*

Saturday, November 24, 2018

**Dwell**

Psalms 27-28

*One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.*  
Psalm 27:4-5

I long to dwell in the house of the LORD. As I consider these verses, I am called to remember Jesus telling his followers, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). I'm not sure this is exactly what Jesus meant, but it really seems to fit this psalm. Ask, seek, knock, and the door opens, so that I may dwell (abide) in the house of the LORD—me dwelling with Him and Him dwelling with me. It is in this dwelling place that I can truly begin to see His beauty. Once I have come to see His beauty, everything else pales in comparison. I ponder the beauty of the LORD. It is vast and immense. Isaiah fell to the earth in the presence of His beauty and yet, I am told that in His presence I will find shelter beneath His wings. In His presence there is joy and peace—there is safety. No other place can even begin to bring this peace to me. With David, I have one thing that I ask, one thing that I seek. I knock on the door of His house, confident that the door will open and I will gaze on His beauty.

*O LORD, I ask, I seek, I long for Your presence. I long to remain in Your presence. I love knowing that through Jesus the door will open to me. Your beauty sweeps me away and reminds me that there is nothing that will come against me as I hide in the shelter of Your tabernacle. I am in the safest place there is—even when it appears otherwise. I fix my gaze on You. Amen.*

November 19 - 24, 2018



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

## Monday, November 19, 2018

### Delighted

Psalms 17-18

*He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.*

Psalm 18:19

This psalm of David gives a glimpse into how David viewed God answering his prayer. He offered up a prayer and God parted the heavens and came down to answer. Throughout the entire psalm, David is careful to give all the praise and glory to God. It was God who delivered him. He knew that, in the midst of the deep waters, he was helpless without God reaching down and rescuing him. God rescued David because God delighted in David. David lived in the constant awareness of that truth. He knew that God delighted in him.

I need this truth planted deep into my heart. I know that the LORD delights in me. Oh, it is not because of anything that I have done—it is His choice to delight in me because of who I am. I am His creation and He is my Creator. He is my Rock and He delights in me. I must remember this truth when all the voices try to convince me otherwise. So many times I am tempted to feel less than worthy of God's love. So many times I feel as though I have failed the LORD and given in to temptations that would cause Him to no longer delight in me. In the midst of those times, I must remember that He rescues me and brings me into a spacious place of forgiveness and love.

*Father, who am I that you should delight in me? I am so unworthy of your unconditional reach into my heart and life. I love You so very deeply and I am so grateful that You are pleased with me because I am Yours. Amen.*

## Tuesday, November 20, 2018

### Words

Psalms 19-20

*May the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

Psalm 19:14

What a powerful prayer this is! It is a prayer that I would love to have be true of me and I would imagine that it is a prayer that God longs to answer. What would my life be like if this was truly answered in the depth of my heart? On what do I meditate? What fills the quiet moments of my heart? Through Jesus, God has redeemed me. He is my Redeemer. He has bought me back from the evil taskmaster to whom I had sold myself. I had given that old deceiver control of my life and he tormented me day and night. Jesus redeemed me from the devil's hold. Jesus is my Rock. I will no longer choose to meditate on the things that held me in the grasp of the evil one. I choose to meditate on my Rock and I choose to have my thoughts be grounded in His truth and His word, so that my words become His words spoken through me. I long for my words to be pleasing to God. This means that whatever situation I find myself in, my words are loving and filled with the praises and the truths of God. I choose to speak life—not death. I choose to speak light—not darkness. I choose to speak Christ because I meditate on Him.

*O LORD, may the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be pleasing to You. You are my Rock and my Redeemer. Draw me into Your Word of truth often. Give me a passion to read the Bible and to know You more. Give me a passion to be around other people who love You. Let me not be swept away into my old thoughts and words of darkness and death. Let me speak life! Amen.*

## Wednesday, November 21, 2018

### Why

Psalms 21-22

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?*

Psalm 22:1

As I read this psalm, the very first words carry my thoughts to the cross of Jesus. He cried out these words from the cross. I know that Jesus used Scripture to defeat the tempter in the desert. I believe that was the pattern of His life on earth. At the most crucial moment on the cross, in His anguish and pain, Jesus is reciting Scripture. As God, He knew this psalm in its fullness. He knew the situation in David's life when he penned these words. Jesus knew the countless people who had offered this prayer in the pain of the exile as Israel was taken from her home and the temple was destroyed. Jesus looked forward and heard all the times that these same words would flow from the lips of many who wondered if God really knew what was happening in their lives. Jesus also knew the whole psalm. He knew that although it may feel as if God had abandoned Him, the opposite is true. God is on His throne, He is exalted above all, the future is His, His righteousness will reign, and all will worship the one true God, whose name is to be forever praised. It is in this psalm that I can take comfort, knowing that my God has not forsaken me—and He never will.

*LORD, thank You for allowing me to see that You never forsake me. Jesus knew this, even as He cried out these words on the cross. Even then, He was sympathizing with those He created. Even then, He was leaving an example that I can know that even when it feels as though you have left me, it will never happen. Amen.*

## Thursday, November 22, 2018

### My Shepherd

Psalms 23-24

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

Psalm 23

David knew what it meant to be a shepherd. He knew the role quite well and he understood the absolute need that sheep had for a shepherd. I often wonder what David was doing when he wrote this beautiful psalm. It is one of the first passages I memorized, and I am sure that it was for many other people. Was he sitting and watching the sheep, considering that God was the One who cared for David in the way that David cared for his sheep? Had he just brought his flocks to a place of green grass and quiet waters? Had they eaten their fill and drunk from the coolness of the stream? Were they now just lying peacefully because David had cared for them? Was it in that moment that David wrote these words? Of course, there is no way of knowing, but it causes me to realize that God is in the moments of my days. He is my shepherd and He is leading me, walking with me, guiding me, comforting me. He takes me to places where I might rest beside quiet waters—so important amidst the chaos of this world.

*My Shepherd, I rest in Your care. I am lost without You and I am restored because You are there. Amen.*