

**WHO DO YOU TRUST?**

August 26, 2018

**Psalm 84**

*<sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! <sup>2</sup> My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. <sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. <sup>4</sup> Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. <sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. <sup>6</sup> As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. <sup>8</sup> O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! <sup>9</sup> Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. <sup>10</sup> For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. <sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. <sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.*

Would the adults sign your name on the yellow pieces of paper in the pew and place them in the (basket) going around? I need some helpers later it will not be scary or painful.

I want to talk a moment about the songs today and how they are more than just words we sing. What message they are giving us. It doesn't matter if they are the new worship songs or Traditional hymns like "How Great Thou Art" or "Because He Lives".

One of my favorite contemporary songs is “Trading my Sorrows”. It was the Sunday following Velma Jeans’ funeral. We attended church and the worship team sang this song. It really resonated with me that day. “I’m trading my sorrows; I’m trading my pain I’m laying down for the Joy of the Lord”. That song was telling me that day that I didn’t have to dwell in the sorrow and pain of losing someone. God gives us joy. It does not mean I don’t miss the people I have lost from this world. They are what help mold us and make us who we are, but we should be glad for them and the peace and joy of what comes next. And if we believe there so much more to look forward to. I would like to talk about the song “Come as You Are” a moment; it is one of my new favorites. “Come out of sadness from wherever you’ve been, come broken hearted, let rescue begin. Come find your mercy, oh sinner come kneel. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t heal. Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken, lift up your face. O wanderer come home, you’re not too far. Lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are”. All who are broken, that is each and every one of us in one way or another, but we are all sinners. “Wanderer come home, you’re not too far” - you have never done anything God won’t forgive. So, you’re never too far. So, lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you Are.

I just want to say, when Pastor John asked me to speak this week I told him to give me a day. That was Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday morning, like at 6 am, I get a text. Ok, Pastor John - it is was 6:03! I am lying in bed still thinking who texting is me this early? I look and it was Pastor John asking, “Have you given anymore thought on speaking the 26<sup>th</sup>?” I was thinking, wow, that wasn’t a day? I told him I would speak; we all need a nudge now and then. Then on Thursday, I had a minor panic attack - felt sick - thinking what am I going to do! Satan was playing his role. It would have been sooo much easier to call Pastor John and say I’m sorry I just can’t do it!

Let us pray: Dear God, may the meditation of my heart and the words of my lips be pleasing to you and those gathered here today.

Pastor John, for the last 3 weeks, has talked about Psalms: how they remind us of God's faithfulness and that He loves us and wants to be present to us all the time. During times of joy and sorrow, happy & sad. All times he wants us to reach out and think of him. At all times!

Our Psalm today starts out, "How lovely are your dwelling places, Oh Lord of host! My soul longed even for the courts of the Lord".

The bird also has found a house and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young. How blessed are those who dwell in your House. The writer of this Psalm was yearning to be in the Temples all the time. Not just once a week, it was a time to be close to God and he longed for that always. He Wanted that feeling of peace and comfort that he felt while he was at the temple all the time. Even the birds liked being there and trusted to have their young there, they were building their nest near the temple. It tells us even the birds don't worry about their next meal they trust. The temples of today are our Churches. The joy and pleasure of coming here to Sing Praise and have fellowship together. Our bodies are the temple for the Holy Spirit.

Then in verse 12 reads, "O Lord of Hosts, How blessed is the man who trusts in you".

**HOW BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUST IN YOU!**

How many people do you truly trust? Trust is not easy!

The word trust is used 147 times in the Bible - depending on which version, King James and so on. The definition of trust is: "the firm belief in the reliability, truth, or strength

of someone or something". Trust for us is not a natural response. For the birds it is natural they don't worry. For us trust has to be earned. If I tell someone I will do something and it doesn't get done it is hard for that person too Trust me again. It takes awhile to earn that trust back if at all.

How many people do you trust? How many of you trust me? I asked you to put your name in the basket, so I could call on a few helpers I told you it wouldn't be scary or painful.

Who did not put their name in because they didn't know what they were getting into even though we said it wouldn't be anything painful or scary?

I am going to pick some names out and as we call you will you come up front?

First, I want to thank you for trusting me. Five people, as I call their name, come forward and I give them the gift.

Lillie gave me her gift back! She said, "Coleen, thank you for the thought but I don't care for this gift so you can keep it".

Keep Linda's gift: I saw her at the stop sign the other day I was waving I know she had to have seen me she didn't even wave back. I don't want to give you this gift! You are not worthy of my gift.

I want to share this I came across the other day:

A father takes his son into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shone through it. He cannot cry out for help from anyone. Once he survives the night he is not to tell any of the other boys of this experience, because each

lad must come into manhood on his own. The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beast must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and the earth shook his stump, but he never removed the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a Man. finally, after a horrific night the sun appeared, and he removed his blindfold. It was then he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting him from harm. We too are never alone. Even when we don't see him God is watching over us, Sitting right beside us. When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him. Just because we can't see God, it doesn't mean he is not there, for we walk by faith not by sight.

A few years ago, our Daughter Samantha was admitted to the hospital for tonsillitis. They were giving her medication to bring the swelling down and were keep her overnight the plan was to take them out the next day if the swelling went down. We got up to the hospital and we were shocked to find out the swelling hadn't gone down at all they were going to take her by ambulance to Sioux Falls because they were so abscessed that they were very concerned for her breathing and we were to get ready to go. Dan went in the ambulance with Samantha and I went home grabbed a few clothes and things gassed up the pickup and headed to Sioux falls knowing I couldn't keep up with the ambulance. When I left Winner, it was November and drizzling a little and 34 degrees. Anyone who knows me very well knows I don't like travailing in iffy weather. Especially when I have to drive. As I was getting to the river I was watching the temp and was so afraid it was going to get icy. I said a little prayer as I was driving to be with me and help keep me from worrying about Samantha and the weather and who knows what else. A few minutes later this fly shows up, annoying me as I drive. The temperature as I kept heading east got warmer the sun bright and this fly. My first

instinct was to swat at it and kill it, which wasn't working. Needless to say this fly was the distraction I needed at that time. I would bother me occasionally but just enough to distract my mind off the other worries at the time. I truly believe God sent me a gift that day that fly. When we returned to the pickup to leave that evening I looked for the fly but did not see it. It was there when I needed it. Of course, Samantha had her surgery and was home the next day. Every now and then I think of that fly.

God gave us a Gift: Jesus. All we have to do is trust (believe) and we get that gift every single day! All we have to do is accept that gift. Lay down our heart to him. He doesn't pick and choose who gets the gift. Unlike me, who didn't feel Linda was worthy of my gift. He has given it to each and every one of us. Not like Lillie - who didn't think the gift was good enough. It is up to us to accept the gift and trust (believe) In Him! Linda and Lillie, will you come up and get your gift!

We all have our brothers and sisters in Christ to help us also. As I was getting ready for today, anyone I asked to help me was more than willing to do so. Thank all of you.

Let us pray!

O Lord, there is nothing better than being with you this includes time when I am alone with you, when my heart is attentive in your Spirit. And it is also wonderful to gather with your people to sing, pray and to be encouraged through fellowship. Thank you for all the blessings you give us each and every day even as small as a fly.

Most of all I thank you for Jesus Christ the ultimate temple whose sacrifice made it possible for us to know you and long for your comfort just like the author of Psalms who heart cried out for you. Amen