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| 1  Psalm 84 Sermon Outline  08/18/24  “Better Is One Day In Your Courts”  **INTRO:**  Imagine you are Jew living in OT times…  -Far away from temple, feasts, mercy seat, etc.  -How would you feel if you lived far away, disconnected from temple?  -You would feel desperate for God’s presence right?  -You’re heart would ache from longing for God  -Kind of like distancing yourself from fiancée  -Good test of love  -“Absence makes the heart grow fonder” = true!  -Sometimes it takes taking away something from us to make us realize how much we miss it | 2  I mention all that because in OT times, before Christ came on the scene, = what worship for Jew looked like  Life of Jew revolved around temples = because tabernacle was in temple  But when Jesus came on scene he made obsolete the temple with rituals and sacrifices  No longer need to be physically there in temple for atonement or accessing presence of God  Now in NT/New Covenant, we have constant access to God the Father and forgiveness for our sins through Jesus  God dwells in each one of us in a way that He didn’t indwell each OT believer  So I want you to see this psalm from this lens/perspective = OT Jew so that we can be more thankful for Jesus and yearn to be with him more |
| 3  **MAIN POINT:**  I hope to get you same yearning/longing sons of Korah had for presence of God = summed up Ps. 84:10  “*Better is a day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere*.”  For those of you who are taking notes, I want to break down this sermon into three points:  First part of journey is “Desiring to dwell with God” verses 1-4  Second part is “The Journey to God” verses 5-7  Third part is “Dwelling with God” verses 8-12  Before get into verse 1, superscription for Psalm 84 says,  “*For the choir director. According to the Gittith. Of the sons of Korah. A psalm*.” | 4  *According to Gittith* = musical notation/instrument = Goliath’s hometown  Remember Korah? = Nasty guy  Not content being transporter of ark/items wanted to be priest too!  So he + Dathan + Abiram = rebelled/rose up  Later on Korahites = doorkeepers/custodians  Time of King David = choir/orchestral leaders  Didn’t start well but did end well  **BODY:**  So let us begin first point part of journey “Desiring to Dwell with God” vv. 1-4  V. 1 “*How lovely are Your dwelling places, O Yahweh of hosts*!” |
| 5  “Dwelling places” = lit. tabernacle = King Solomon  Magnificent + beautiful temple = 1 Kings 6 = gold  When Israel came back after their exile in Babylon = built second temple  But older priests + levites remembered glory of first temple = weep = not as glorious as first  Solomon’s temple = 7 wonders of world  And then psalmist addresses “O Yahweh of hosts”  “Hosts” = armies = Lord of armies  Vanquish any foe at sound of a word…yet chose to display His presence in tabernacle in a lovely way  V. 2 “*My soul has longed and even fainted for the courts of Yahweh; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God*.”  Progression of movement here… | 6  VV. 1-4 = desire to be in temple  VV. 5-7 = Journey to the temple  VV. 8-12 Reached temple/final destination  If this was in time of exile = psalmist far away from temple  But his heart was aching for the presence of God  Like being submerged under the waters of wickedness, he needed take a righteous breath of air  Strong language = “feints”  Have you ever gotten to the point of desiring to be with God so much that you almost feinted for Him?  Everything in His being is crying out to the living God  “Living” God = compared to dead idols |
| 7  V. 3 “*Even the bird has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she sets her young, at your altars, O Yahweh of hosts, my king and my God*.”  Nesting birds = picture of weak and defenseless finding refuge in God  Concludes V. 4 “*How blessed are those who dwell in your house! They are ever praising You. Selah*.”  Psalmist just described delight and joy to dwell in God’s presence through tabernacle  Problem is…how do you get there?  You have to travel there  Point number 2  “The Journey to God vv. 5-7  V. 5 “*How blessed is the man whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion*!” | 8  Just as desire to dwell in God’s house = blessed  So journey to God’s house will be = blessed  For a journey you need strength!  But question is where you are going to get your strength from?  Yourself or the Lord?  Psalmist’s answer: “Blessed are those who put their strength in You!”  I don’t know about you, I would take God’s strength over my strength  Anyways, these pilgrims gone through many hot and dry areas on way to Zion  “Zion” = city of David, city of Jerusalem = “fortified place” = fortress built on raised hill |
| 9  One of dry places = “Valley of Baca” = Dryness = weeping?  Regardless = difficult passage  But those who rely on God’s strength for journey = showered by early rains of God’s blessing  Just as those who travel through a dry valley get blessed by sudden rains  No matter how difficult your journey may be, if you desire to be with God, and you trust in His strength rather than your own = you will be blessed by God  Now normally when you set out on long journey/pilgrimage start off strong but don’t end strong  But opposite becomes true for pilgrims to Jerusalem  V. 7 “*they go from strength to strength*” | 10  They catch second wind of God’s strength to reach = final dest.  V. 8 “*O Yahweh God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob*! *Selah*”  Once again, appeal to God’s sovereign power  appeal to God’s covenant faithfulness = God of “Jacob” = The one who identifies with Israel’s descendants  V. 9 “*See out shield, O God, and look upon the face of Your anointed*.”  “Shield” = king  “Look upon face” = favor  Perhaps coming back from exile, nation is weak and needs protection/vulnerable  But if God is for us, who can be against us as Romans says |
| 11  Centerpiece of psalm =  V. 10  “*For better is a day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere. I would choose to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness*.”  = Beautiful verse worth etching into wall  Where is “elsewhere” = “tents of wickedness”  “Stand at the threshold” = “being a doorkeeper” = custodian/janitor  I would rather be sitting on the cold hard ground in front of the temple than sitting on the most comfortable and luxurious couches that Satan can offer me  Perhaps being content with lowly position = intentionally meant to point us back to Korah’s discontent and sinfully wanting more | 12  ILLUST:  Like when I was working as a custodian = world’s eye = lowly position  In fact some call this = janitor’s psalm  It doesn’t matter what position, what career, cleaning the gutters, if you are walking before him in obedience, infinitely better off than a king who delights in wickedness  When God looks upon face of King of Israel = God Himself becomes to nation = “sun and shield”  “Shield” = source of protection = king  “Sun” = source of life and light = He illumines our dark paths  Israel not meant to have king = God was to be their king! |
| 13  Not only is a “sun and shield” = who he is  But this is what he does = “gives grace and glory”  So glorious that angels dare not look yet He gives grace  In fact sons of Korah says “*No good thing does He withhold from those who walk blamelessly*.”  Not promise that everything will go smoothly  But…it is a promise that  God will not withhold anything good for you if He deems it good  Sometimes God deems it good to give us trials and take us through hard times so that we would not rely on ourselves but on God who is gracious  You may not see it as good at the time, but when you look back, you will see God’s hand of goodness in that | 14  Psalmist had that perspective, if not when he was afflicted, after looking back…  Psalm 119:71  *“It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.”*  V. 12 concludes journey  “*O Yahweh of hosts, how blessed is the man who trusts in You*!”  To get to that point of desiring to be with God…  It all starts with trusting in God = believing in God  Do you trust in Him/believe in Him?  Good news = don’t have to travel hundreds of miles to access presence of God  In fact, when Jesus died on the cross for your sins, curtain of the veil torn in two, = immediate access to God through Jesus |
| 15  Temple no longer necessary for priest to atone for sins of himself or his people = because Christ atoned for all sins of everyone who would ever believe = temple of His body  Gospel of John Jesus = “*tear this temple down, and I will raise it up again*”  Jesus is temple we dwell in to access presence of God  Jesus work’s on cross  Heb. 10:19-22  *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*  If we have 24/7 access to God through Jesus… | 16  how much more thankful should we be for this incredible gift?!  How much more should we long to be in the courts of Yahweh like the psalmist?!  If you abide in Jesus by keeping His Word = He will be sun and shield to you  He is the anointed one whom the Father has looked favorably upon  If you trust in Jesus and believe that He died for your sins and was raised on your behalf, you will be blessed  He will bless you with His grace and glory  And then you can join the rest of the pilgrims on their journey to the true city of Zion, new heavens and new earth |
| 17  Blessed with showers of His goodness, no matter how difficult journey may be and  “He will not withhold any good thing from those who walk blamelessly before Him”  [pray]  Benediction  Although Israel as a whole has not yet turned to their Messiah Jesus Christ, one day true peace will come to the remnant of Israel when they trust in their Messiah as we the church have trusted in Him  Psalm 128:5  *“May Yahweh bless you from Zion, That you may see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Indeed, may you see your children’s children. Peace be upon Israel!”* | 18 |