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| 1Psalm 84 Sermon Outline08/18/24“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  | 2I mention all that because in OT times, before Christ came on the scene, = what worship for Jew looked likeLife 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 1-4Second part is “The Journey to God” verses 5-7Third part is “Dwelling with God” verses 8-12Before 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 SolomonMagnificent + 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 worldAnd 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… | 6VV. 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  |
| 7V. 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*!” | 8Just 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 |
| 9One 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 rainsNo 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*” | 10They 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  |
| 11Centerpiece 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/janitorI 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  | 12ILLUST: 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 wickednessWhen 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! |
| 13Not 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 | 14Psalmist 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  |
| 15Temple 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 crossHeb. 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… | 16how 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  |
| 17Blessed 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] BenedictionAlthough 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 |