

September 23, 2018 In God We Trust Pt. 5 Psalm 27:9-10

Several weeks ago we looked at verse 4 of Psalm 27. "One thing I ask of the Lord." And then David makes a list of ways in which he says in different words what that one thing is. His expression of his faith includes: "that I may dwell in the house of the Lord; He will keep me safe; I will sing and make music to the Lord; hear my voice when I call; my heart says of you, 'I will seek your face.'" In other words the one thing David asks of the Lord, is the one thing we tend to ask of the Lord. "Be with us in the midst of the joys, the tragedies, the pain and successes of our every day lives."

It is that theme which begins again in verse 9 of Psalm 27. "Do not hide your face from me, Lord," my light and my salvation. That is what this Psalm 27 is about: a man who believes asking the Lord to be present in the midst of the totality of his experience as a king of Israel, a soldier of the Lord, a man of God. The truth is we often find ourselves struggling. We have to juggle money to pay the bills. As we age we find ourselves struggling with health issues. We are not as physically strong as we used to be, and things that once were easy to do have become unique challenges. The one thing David wants, the one thing I want and ask of God is that I be up to the challenges of each new day, in a world where I begin to see the limitations of what I can do, in a world where I need God's presence every bit as much as I need food and drink.

Here is the reality. It is not that David is having trouble believing there is a God. It is not that I have trouble believing that Jesus saves; that the Holy Spirit comforts and guides. But as I wrestle with the challenges of life, I need to see God present, Jesus Christ as my Lord, the Holy Spirit as my Comforter and Guide. David asks for an intimate personal relationship with God as he deals with the affairs of state. As he does his job as king. As he tries to strategize in the face of political opposition within and without the kingdom.

And that does not mean that he wants everything to go his way. Wanting to see God present in the affairs of each day is not the same thing as winning every argument, or winning every battle, or defeating every force that rises in opposition to him and his views. He is praying for a personal relationship. I see my wife's face every day, almost every hour! I see my son's face at least once a month in spite of the fact that we do not live in the same community. I see my daughter's face regularly. And if I do not see her face I hear her voice on the phone, or read her messages on the computer. Faith is about a relationship and a relationship that cannot be lived at a distance, nor on a theoretical or legal level alone.

The man who faced Goliath is afraid of being King of Israel based on his own resources, his own wisdom, his own strength of character. Like a wee child that wants to see Mommy's face, and be held in Daddy's arms, David wants to see that God is with him and abiding close at hand. If he cannot

see God at work in the details of his life and his job, he gets fearful that God is angry with him. He fears being forsaken by the God who is his Saviour.

And do not misunderstand me. I am not suggesting we should live in fear of the lack of the Lord's loving presence. I am saying we ought to live, hungering for the visibility of God's presence as we go about our days activity. We should be hungry for signs of God's presence. We should be continually trying to see the influence of the angels in what is happening to us. We should be looking for the apparent reality of miracles occurring, doors opening unto us that we did not foresee. I always remember the wisdom of that line in *The Sound of Music*, when Julie Andrew's character says, "Mother Superior always says God never closes a door that HE does not open a window." One thing I ask of the Lord:...do not hide your face from me."

The hardest moments of my life and my life in ministry have always been those times when I was not certain God was present. When I was not certain I could see HIS marvelous will unfolding. When I feared the silence, meant the absence of my Lord and my God. It is a true saying, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of God." It is a more fearful thing to find yourself alone, and surrounded by the silence of the Lord of Heaven and Earth.

And that David talks about these things means we are not imagining things when we go through dry seasons of the

spirit. We are not imagining things when we cannot see what God is doing. When we cannot hear HIS voice in the hush of the wind in the pine tree or the meadow grass. We go through such times. They are real. There is something we can do when we find ourselves in despair. We can do what David does in Psalm 27. He hunts for God's intimate presence. He spends more time in prayer. He spends more time in praise. He spends more time in God's House...the sanctuary. He spends more time in God's precious word.

I believe there are 2 key phrases in verses 9 and 10. In verse 9 the key phrase is "O God my Saviour." There is nothing wishy washy about that phrase. For all of David's trials, and if we understand anything about governing and government, nations and nationhood, we should understand these things involve trials and troubles. The road travelled by those in government who are trying to govern is not an easy road. The road travelled by those who are leading nations, who want to develop nationhood are on a difficult, complex and trial ridden road. Everyone has an opinion about decisions taken, and laws passed. But in verse 9 here is the bottom line for David the king. "Do not reject me, O God my Saviour." For all the details where David has doubt, and where David is uncertain...he is positive about this. Lord, you are my Saviour come what may! Conviction. For all his failings, for all his sin. David has built his life upon the Rock...and in the writing of this Psalm he expresses that. God, you are my Saviour. I have no other God but YOU.

And the key phrase in verse 10 mirrors that truth. “The Lord will receive me.” If there is one thing that a child expects it is that Mom and Dad can be depended upon. And regardless of our age the fact is we never stop being sons and daughters. It is as the son of Jesse that David writes “Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.” I say again this Psalm for all its expression of anguish, is not a Psalm about doubt. David’s faith is solid. But he wants to see, to know, to experience, to have conviction that God is present and with him.” So he says, “even if the unthinkable happens, the Lord will receive me.” The Lord David has come to know and whom he has served, is the awaiting Father pictured in Jesus parable of the Prodigal Son. The Father who looks for his wayward son’s return, who rejoices at his son’s coming home. The Father who walks down the road looking for and anticipating that moment when his long lost son will walk over the next hill to be welcomed by loving arms, a coat of inclusion in the family, and a ring of authority.

The Lord will receive me...no matter what happens to me in this world. In fact David has seen the face of the Lord his God. And it is the face of Jesus. Drawing people to Himself even as HE is lifted up on the cross. Drawing people to Himself as the resurrection becomes the heart of the good news. No matter what people and circumstance do to me in this world, the Lord will receive me! Words of encouragement and hope. In God we trust.

Let us pray;

Lord Jesus, we hear the words of the Gospel in Psalm 27. O God our Saviour be with us as we journey into and through this next week with what are bound to be its challenges. In what we perceive to be the worst of our moments help us to remember YOU are our Saviour. When something happens that causes us to feel alone, remind us that you will never abandon or forsake us. Lead us into the light, in Jesus name. Amen