

Rhema Christian Center
February 21, 2023
Triumphant Tuesday Bible Study
Song: As the Deer
Psalms 84 (TPT)
Rosie (Fillmore)Seals

As the Deer,

this song is based on Psalm 42:1 NIV reads, “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God”.

In this song we see this hunger and thirst for the Lord. It’s being compared to how a deer will seek a stream to quench its thirst. We know that Jesus is our living water, and that blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. John 7:37-39 NIV reads, “On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Deer need water to survive, just like every creature on this earth. Without it, we would all perish. In the Spirit, it’s the same thing. Jesus is our living water and we drink from Him. We are then restored, refreshed and strengthen.

But it's even richer than that. Deer run to water for thirst, but they also run to water for safety and protection. When a deer runs to water, it helps them by causing their enemies to not see them and lose their scent. This leaves their enemy confused to where the deer went. It's like this in the spirit as well. If we run to the Living Water, Jesus, we won't just have our thirst satisfied, but we are then washed, cleansed and protected, by the blood of the Lamb -Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

The psalmist in Psalm 84 anticipates the upcoming of one of the yearly festivals; which was Passover in the spring, Pentecost in the summer and Tabernacles in the fall. It's possible that the psalmist will not be attending; but it's clear that his anticipation comes out of reflection of preparation for the powerful experience of worshiping God in the Temple. Psalms 84 was written before or after the exile in Babylon during the 6th century BCE. Psalm 84 was attributed to the sons of Korah and was compiled by David into the Book of Psalms. At the time Psalm 84 was written, David, son of Jesse had been anointed king, but not yet recognized as king over Israel. In fact, King Saul, was in pursuit of David to take his life. Samuel the prophet stated that God himself had chosen David, and so he anointed him. When it became clear to King Saul that David was favored

by the multitudes of Israel, he began to fear him. That is when he sought to kill him, and David fled. The circumstances of David's life at this time, is significant because it is thought that he spoke the words to this Psalm while living on the run. Since the Hebrew history was mostly passed down through song and story, it is likely that he did not actually pen these words during this time, but that he sang them and the words of the song were then passed down through generations.

The sons of Korah are the ancestors of the Levite Korah who rebelled against Moses due to jealousy; God settled the dispute by having the ground open and swallow up Korah, along with 250 of his followers (Numbers 16th chapter). (I'm thinking that they weren't familiar with the scripture that states, **"Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophet no harm" Psalm 105:15 KJV**).

A time after the rebellion took place, a group of Korahites, ancestors of Korah, joined King David in various military exploits, they won the reputation of being expert warriors. The most notable about the sons of Korah is that during the time of David, they became great leaders in music in the tabernacle. Heman the Korahite had a place of great importance as a singer, along with Asaph (a Gershonite) and Ethan (a Merarite). **(scripture reference can be found in 1st Chronicles, chapters 12, 20 and 26)**. These individuals played an important role in the thanksgiving services and pageantry when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem. David formed an

elaborate organization for sons of Korah. These beautiful palms express a spirit of great gratitude and humility to an awesome, mighty God. They express a longing for God and a deep devotion. As the psalmist watched them prepare for their journey to the festival, he sang this song (Psalm 84), he was expressing his desire to be in God's house.

Psalm 84 is classified as a pilgrimage psalm, sung as praise by those who traveled to Jerusalem to worship.

Even after their move had taken place into the Promised Land, the three festivals reminded them that they were still pilgrims on this earth, as are God's people are today.

Charles Spurgeon stated that Psalm 84 was entitled to be called The Pearl of Psalms, this Psalms is one of the most sweet of the Psalms of Peace.

Outline:

Psalm 84:1-4 My Delight is in the Lord

Psalm 84:5-8 My Strength is in the Lord

Psalm 84:9-12 My Trust is in the Lord

Verses 1-4 My Delight is in the Lord

Vs #1 God of Heaven's Armies, you find so much beauty in your people! They're like lovely sanctuaries of your presence.

God didn't dwell in the hearts of man until after Christ's death and resurrection. God has always had a dwelling place in the midst of His people. After Solomon built the Temple, he would dwell in the Holy of Holies, the most inner room of the temple where only the High Priest could enter his presence.

Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. With his own blood-not the blood of goats and calves-he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. (Hebrews 9:7-12 NLT)

Now have we forgotten that our bodies are now the sacred temple of the Spirit of Holiness, who lives in us? We don't belong to ourselves any longer, for the gift of God, the Holy Spirit, lives inside of our sanctuary. (1 Corinthians 6:19 TPT)

Don't we realize that together we have become God's inner sanctuary and that the Spirit of God makes his permanent home in us? 1 Cor 3:16 (TPT)

This means that God is transforming each one of us into the Holy of Holies, his dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in us! Ephesians 2:22(TPT)

Vs #2 Deep within me are these lovesick longings, desires and daydreams of living in union with you. When I'm near you, my heart and my soul will sing and worship with my joyful songs of you, my true source and spring of life!

The psalmist is consumed with intense desire to worship God in the temple. His desire to enjoy the living God; it was not merely the courts, but God in them, that he wanted, the God which has life in himself, with whom is the fountain of life, the God who gives life to others, natural, spiritual, and eternal. The desire to worship was of the whole man, soul and body, not only with mouth and lips, but with his heart.

There's a sincere appetite for the Lord here in this passage of scripture. Within this passage of scripture, there's a longing an excitement about being in the presence of God.

Can we ask ourselves this question, "When issues of life happen, whatever the issue might be, that causes us to miss going to church to worship; are we longing to be in the midst of worshipping in the house of the Lord?"

We thank God for all the technologic that we have today; it's definitely a blessing to those who are confined. We're blessed to be able to come together into the sanctuary again.

A few questions to ponder:

1. Is God the focal point of my life?
2. Am I sincerely going to church to worship God, or just to socialize?
3. Do I realize how Blessed I am to be able to worship God publicly (without being harmed in any way)?
4. Am I excited to go into the house of the Lord?

Romans 12:11 (TPT) states, “Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord, keeping your passion toward him boiling hot! Radiate with the glow of the Holy Spirit and let him fill you with excitement as you serve him.”

It's important that our heart is devoted to the Lord; that we maintain a spiritual appetite to continually fellowship with the Lord.

Vs #3 O Lord of Heaven's Armies, my King and my God, even the sparrows and swallows are welcome to build a nest among your altars to raise their young.

The psalmist considered the birds blessed to be able to build their nest and find rest and refuge in the house of God; and they can raise their young there as well. Swallows are known as restless creatures. Those birds are a description of God's people, wandering around this wilderness of earth, lonely and restless.

Matt 10:29 (TPT) You can buy two sparrows for only a copper coin, yet not even one sparrow falls from its nest without the knowledge of your Father. Aren't you worth much more to God than many sparrows?

The only place where rest and security can be found for ourselves and our families is at the altar of the Lord. Here is the place where our souls, like the sparrow and swallow, can rest, and here we can bring our children to find rest also.

Acts 16:31 (AMP)

Believe in the Lord Jesus (as your personal Savior and entrust yourself to Him) and you will be saved you and your household (if they also believe).

Vs #4 What pleasure fills those who live every day in your temple, enjoying you as they worship in your presence!

The psalmist is stating how blessed are those who never have to leave the temple; they can praise the Lord all the day long, he was thinking of the priest and temple officials. We can praise and worship God wherever we are, but there is something special about the saints coming together to praise and worship the Lord in church. To think about the happiness of loved ones who have gone home to be with the Lord, we feel the loss, but for them it's eternal gain.

Philippians 1:21 AMP

For to me, to live is Christ (He is my source of joy, my reason to live) and to die is gain (for I will be with Him in eternity)

Pause in his presence (Selah, used in other translations)

This statement could be taken as “pause in silence or fall prostrate before God. Or, being in awe of God, speechless, a show of respect toward God as well as an attitude of worship and admiration.

Verses 5-8 My Strength is in the Lord

Vs #5 How enriched are they who find their strength in the Lord; within their hearts, are the highways of holiness!

As God's people proceed toward the Kingdom of God, there is a road they must travel, an elevated road. No other road can take us to the Kingdom of God; this is the most important highway of all, the "Highway of Holiness" that leads to eternal life.

We must strive to walk this highway daily, (not just Saturday and Sunday) it takes commitment. It takes accepting Jesus into our heart, accepting his way of loving and living.

Ephesians 3:17 KJV

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love”

Highway of Holiness represents a way of life. King Solomon wrote, **Proverbs 16:17 (TPT)Repenting from evil places you on the highway of holiness. Protect purity and you protect your life.**

There are many counterfeit highways in this world, allegedly leading to the Kingdom of God, but actually leading only to death.

The Highway of Holiness is the only way to the true God, by conforming to His character. And it's the way to what only the true God offers-eternal life in the Kingdom of God. We know that, **God's Kingdom is not of this world, God's Kingdom is out of this world.** (Bishop Scales)

Vs #6 Even when their paths wind through the dark valley of tears, they dig deep to find a pleasant pool where others find only pain. He gives to them a brook of blessing filled from the rain of an outpouring.

The valley of tears was an arid place on the way to Jerusalem.

(arid – little or no rain, too dry or barren to support vegetation)

Many came from miles around on the feast days to the temple in Jerusalem to worship. God had provided wells along the way to keep them from dying from thirst. As they refreshed and got a drink at these wells, they would have an opportunity to visit with others going to or from Jerusalem. The pilgrims traveling to a festival of worship at Jerusalem turn an arid valley into a place of joy.

Valley of tears can be viewed as a time of trials and testing; it can represent tough times that believers experience as they journey through their lives in devotion to God. But it's during these times of difficulties that God's people discover His amazing grace. We must remember **Psalms23:4(AMP)**

Even though I walk through the (sunless) valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod (to protect) and Your staff (to guide), they comfort and console me.

Philippians 4:7(NLT)

Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Vs #7They grow stronger and stronger with every step forward, and the god of all gods will appear before them in Zion

With the blessedness expressed by plenty of water in an otherwise dry place (mentioned in verse 6), the pilgrim lives in strength and goes to more strength. The rich relationship with God is a never-ending supply of strength for the journey, even in difficult seasons. On a normal journey (especially a difficult one) the usual pattern is to go from strength to weakness or fatigue. Not so with those whose strength is in God. Their journey has a destination – Zion, the city of God.

How God loves the gates of Zion, his favorite place on earth. Psalm 87:2(TPT)

The journey may be long and difficult, but the anticipation of encountering the presence of God in Zion brings hope and expectation.

Things do not necessarily become easier when you become a Christian. That is why some Christians fall out of the race, and stop living like a Christian. Don't look back with the mindset that you're missing out on something, if you look back with that frame of mind, you can't move forward. If you're looking back, do it in amazement of how far you've come with Christ.

I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me.

Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward-to Jesus.

**I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.
Philippians 3:12-14(MSG)**

Vs #8 Hear my cry, O God of Heaven's Armies! God of Jacob, listen to my loving prayer

The psalmist prays for audience and acceptance with God. He needed to say no more when he had professed such an affectionate esteem for the ordinances of God. He's asking God to give ear, that he would behold his condition, behold his good affection.

Ordinances – anything declared right – an act of man in obedience to God.

All his desire was, in that profession, plainly before God, his longing, and his groaning, was not hidden from him; for this he prayed.

Apostle Paul states from

Romans 8:26-27

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Constant prayer is an element in the life of every faithful soul. Prayer has been called the "breath of the saints";

and when one stops praying, he is either spiritually dead, or soon will be.

Food and rest are essential to sustain human life, but only prayer reveals and expands our spiritual life. As it is natural for children to want to see and converse with their parents, so it should also be natural and pleasant for us to converse with our Heavenly Father. The more we talk (pray) to him, the closer and deeper our relationship become with him. We are to pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (TPT) Make your life a prayer.

Pause in his presence

Verses 9-12 My Trust is in the Lord

Vs #9 God, your wraparound presence is our defense. In your kindness look upon the faces of your anointed ones.

Here the psalmist is asking for God's attention, as mentioned in the beginning it's believed that this psalm was written during the time David was being chased by King Saul to take his life; David is hiding out in caves, not because David was afraid, David stated that King Saul was one of God's anointed and he would wait on the Lord to bring judgement on the house of Saul (1 Samuel 24th chapter). Therefore, the psalmist is lifting his petition to the Lord, beginning with a prayer for the king. The psalmist is asking God to be a shield of protection, in order

that he might arrive safely in Jerusalem to worship God. This verse is addressing the outward state of condition, where he's being deprived of the opportunity to go to temple to worship and be in the presence of God.

Remember the Good Samaritan parable, a man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, he was attacked by bandits, stripped of his clothes, beaten and left half dead beside the road (Luke 10th chapter).

The Christian life is full of traps and pitfalls. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8 NLT)

Psalms 62:2 (TPT) tells us, "He alone is my safe place his wraparound presence always protects me. For he is my champion defender, there's no risk of failure with God. So why would I let worry paralyze me even when troubles multiply around me?"

In all our addresses to God we must desire that he would look upon the face of Christ, accept us for his sake, and be well-pleased with us in him. We must look with an eye of faith, and then God will with an eye of favor look upon the face of the anointed, who does show his face when we without him dare not show ours.

Vs #10 For just one day of intimacy with you is like a thousand days of joy rolled into one! I'd rather stand

at the threshold in front of the Gate Beautiful, ready to go in and worship my God, than to live my life without you in the most beautiful palace of the wicked.

The psalmist is stating that, being in attendance of the word of God and his ordinances meaning, anything declared right by God, worshipping in the fear of God, in spirit and in truth; in divine service, assisted by the Spirit of God, doing everything in faith, from love, and with a view to the glory of God; one day of this intimacy with God is like a thousand days of joy rolled into one!

The psalmist goes on to say that he would rather be a doorkeeper, gatekeeper, or stand at the threshold in front of the Gate Beautiful, ready to go in and worship God, than to live life without Him in the most beautiful palace of the wicked.

Gatekeepers, they're men of valor (strength or courage). They had to be because they guarded the doorways of the temple where treasures such as gold and silver (offerings) were stored. Additionally, they had to guard against all sorts of individuals, those that had no moral principles, nor honesty and no regard for the holiness of God.

Of the most favorable of circumstances in which earth's pleasures can be enjoyed, they're not at all comparable to serving in the house of the Lord.

Committing to and being a servant in the house of the Lord is a prerequisite of inheriting a permanent dwelling place (life eternal)

Being in the tent of the wicked – no inheritance – no life

Today I have given you the choice between life and death between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live (Deuteronomy 30:19) NLT

Vs #11 For the Lord God is brighter than the brilliance of a sunrise! Wrapping himself around me like a shield, he is so generous with his gifts as grace and glory. Those who walk along his paths with integrity will never lack one thing they need, for he provides all!

The Psalmist speaks of the blessings of God to the righteous. He is a sun (light) and shield (protection); He gives grace and glory and He doesn't withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly.

What God is, and will be to his people, is a sun and shield. With his favor he will compass us as with a shield. Let us therefore always walk in the light of the Lord, and never throw ourselves out of his protection, and we shall find him

a sun to supply us with all good and a shield to shelter us from all evil.

The Lord will give grace and glory. Both in due time. The Lord has grace and glory in abundance; Jesus is the fulness of both, and, as his chosen people, we shall receive both as a free gift from the God of our salvation.

We Christians take on the righteousness of Christ, when we are saved. We are in right standing with God, just as if we had never sinned. If we walk in the righteousness that Jesus purchased for us on Calvary, no good thing will be withheld from us. We are joint-heirs with Christ.

Vs #12 O Lord of Heaven's Armies, what euphoria fills those who forever trust in you!

God's greatness and goodness lead the psalmist to experience and declare the blessedness of trusting in God. The essence of godliness is in submissiveness to the Great King, who will grant his blessings to those who find their refuge in him.

The TPT states "what euphoria" which means a feeling of intense excitement and happiness. Just imagine giving your child or grandchild that long awaited bike or video game, they're skipping, dancing and running around, they cannot keep still. This is euphoria, this should be the portion of those filled with all the fulness of God. Joy! unspeakable joy!

1 Peter 1:8-9 TPT

You love him passionately although you have not seen him, but through believing in him you are saturated with an ecstatic joy, indescribably sublime and immersed in glory. For you are reaping the harvest of your faith-the full salvation promised you-your souls' victory!

We as believers today have constant open access into the presence of God because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His constant intercession for us in heaven.

Do we delight in the Lord and seek Him?

Do we depend on His strength?

Do we walk and work by faith?

Are we among those who walk uprightly?

Bless you, and thank you for being in attendance this evening.

Resources

Matthew Henry Commentary

David Guzik – Psalms Volume 3

Warren W Wiersbe – Exposition Commentary

The Book of Psalms – Douglas Connelly, Larry Richards

Lifehopeandtruth.com

Believer's Bible Commentary, Wm Macdonald (2nd edition)