

The Thrice-Blessed Man

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 84

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I. Covid Lockdowns

In the old covenant, Psalm 84 sings of the glories of the tabernacle in Jerusalem and the psalmist's longing to gather for worship with God's people. In the new covenant, we no longer have a central sanctuary; we are no longer obligated to travel to Jerusalem for worship (Jn 4:21ff). But we are summoned to gather at Mt. Zion week by week to enter God's presence and worship with God's people. Psalm 84 teaches us to delight in that summons and to be eager to fulfill it.

II. The Thrice-Blessed Man

Psalm 84 was composed by the "sons of _____." These were most likely descendants of the famous Korah, who along with Dathan and Abiram was swallowed alive for his rebellion against Moses (cf. Num 16:32). Though some of Korah's children perished with him, not all did (cf. Num 26:11).

A. Blessed are those who dwell in God's house (1-4)

The sons of Korah express the longing of those who are unable to gather regularly with the people of God for a time. *The true child of God longs to enter the presence of God and he does this when he gathers with God's people for worship.* How the psalmist wishes he could *dwell always in the house of the Lord* – a reality that we will know only in the restoration of all things when Christ comes again in glory. Nevertheless, God graciously gives us tastes of that restoration even now.

B. Blessed is the man who travels to Zion (5-8)

Getting to the tabernacle in the old covenant and to church in the new entails challenges. Our fathers had to leave their homes and walk miles to Jerusalem three times a year. The journey was often unpleasant. Nevertheless, those who did so in faith, walking in the _____ that God supplied, would be truly *blessed*.

C. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord (9-12)

But this meeting with God is not automatic. It comes only to those who in faith trust in God's _____ (His anointed one) and look to God to bless them. Those who enter God's presence in faith encounter Yahweh God, who *is a sun* (our source of life and light) *and shield* (our defender, just like our Messiah). Hence, we enter His presence expecting Him to pour out *grace* (the ability to walk in His ways) *and glory* (strength, fortitude, confidence – opposite of shame). The truly *blessed man* is the one who *trusts in God* to protect and bless him.

III. Worship Diagnostics

A. Do you long to worship God with His people?

The sons of Korah longed to visit the tabernacle because they longed to meet with God. In the old covenant, the _____ was where to experience heaven on earth. So where does God tabernacle in the new covenant? He tabernacles in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle John reminds us, *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God... and the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us”* (Jn 1:1,14). Jesus is Immanuel, God with us.

Thus, we no longer need to travel to Jerusalem to worship. Weekly when we gather to worship God in the name of His Anointed, we meet with God.

¹⁹Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:19–25)

When we gather to worship God in the Name of His Son and by the power of His Spirit, we ascend Mt. Zion and are given a taste of heaven on earth.

²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. (Hebrews 12:22–24)

B. Do you joyfully overcome the obstacles to get to worship?

Psalm 84 summons us to *“set our hearts on _____.”* Satan would like nothing more than to keep you from worship. *He walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour* (1 Pet 5:8). Psalm 84 urges us joyfully to overcome these obstacles and to get ourselves and our families to worship. And the first thing we should do is pray that God would pour out His _____ upon us and our family. In order to *each one to appear before God in Zion*, we must *go from strength to strength* (7) – *Blessed is the man whose _____ is in You* (5). We must *“work out our salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure”* (Phil 2:12-13). So pray that He would be *at work in you* so that you can *work things out in His strength*.

C. Do you trust the Lord to bless you through Jesus Christ as you worship?

Why does Satan want to keep us from _____? Because this is where God promises to bless and strengthen and equip us.

⁹O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your anointed. ¹⁰For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. ¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. ¹²O LORD of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You! (Psalm 84:9–12)

“What happens day-in and day-out cannot begin to compare with one day in the presence of God, because in his presence the pilgrim finds grace and glory which sustains him on all the other days” (Ross, 757).

IV. Conclusion