

Psalm 84 Pilgrimage

Psalm 84 is given the Title of being to the Chief Musician in David's Kingdom.

A) A guy by the name of HEMAN – was the chief Musician – he was of the sons of Korah

B) Heman – He was the **Jeremy Camp of the musicians in David's Kingdom** –

1) No idea what he looked like – cool name – HEMAN

C) **Psalm 84** is a Song about Pilgrimage

D) We are on a journey – this world is not our home

1) Passing through – don't get too comfortable

The people of Israel were required 3X a year to make the journey up to Jerusalem for 3 yearly feast.

A) The feast of Passover and Pentecost – both in the spring - 50 days apart

B) And the feast of Tabernacles that was in the Fall

C) The writer of this Psalm wasn't one who viewed those mandatory feast as a burden –

1) "oh I have to go to Jerusalem -AGAIN"

D) But he saw them as a Joy – **He longed to be in the courts of the Living God**

The Psalmist is longing for God's courts because He longs for God's Presence.

A) God is present in a special way when his people gather together

B) PSALM 22:3 tells us that **God is enthroned in the praises of his people.**

C) **WORSHIP** a way of our declaring – **You are God and we are not** – we are submitted to you

1) We are yielded to you –

D) God comes into this setting – Sets up his presence – **Receives our worship**

1) He bends his ear and heart

The Psalm divides neatly into 3 stanza – marked by the word – Selah = to think on these things

Stanza 1 V.1-4 The Longing of the Pilgrim.

Stanza 2 V.5-8 Tells us of Journey – the experience.

Stanza 3 V.9-12 Describes the Presence of the Lord when the Pilgrim finally arrives.

Stanza 1 Ps 84:1-4- LONGINGS

**How lovely is Your tabernacle,
O Lord of hosts!**

**2 My soul longs, yes, even faints
For the courts of the Lord;**

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

**3 Even the sparrow has found a home,
And the swallow a nest for herself,**

Where she may lay her young —

**Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts,
My King and my God.**

**4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;
They will still be praising You.- SELAH**

How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!

A) He has been there many times and HE is writing from that perspective –

2 My soul longs, (Craving) yes, even faints (Spent or homesick) For the courts of the Lord;

B) **Ever been Homesick** { Missions trip Day 8 I really start missing Denise and the family – you guys

C) **Russia missions trip** – News of Break in –

1) Suddenly Homesick - My Bride – traumatized and I am on the other side of the world

D) I have to get home to my bride! - We had a great team -function without me – SEE YA

1) That plane couldn't fly fast enough

That is the heart of the Psalmist – He is Craving / Pinning – for the courts of the Lord – Why?

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

A) Not longing for the Courts of the Lord – so much as He is longing for the Lord of the Courts

B) It is not a place – but a Person that we long for!

C) It is an amazing thing to think about that the God of the universe desires intimate and abiding relationship with us.

D) Amazing that He has time for us at all –

James 4:8

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

The Writer of Ps 84 has experienced that! – The goodness, the blessing of Being in God’s Presence.

A) It wasn’t the ritual of the religious service that impressed Him –

B) It wasn’t the Liturgy – it wasn’t the routine

1) It wasn’t some person – He was drawn to – not a personality – that wooed him.

C) It was none of those things – It was the presence of God – that He was drawn to.

The Bible tells us that when two or more of us are gathered together in his name – He is there

A) I love that reality and his promise

B) But I love the times even more when God manifest his presence

1) Moves from Theory to reality

C) You can tell – He is here enthroned in our praises

1) He is here – speaking to us right now

D) OT – Glory – the Kabod – weightiness – his presence is thick –

1) I LOVE THOSE TIMES – LONG FOR THOSE TIMES – sense his Kabod with us

E) I pray that we would all have the Longing of the Psalmist – **“Lord we long for your Presence.”**

1) The Older I get in the Lord - the less – I am impressed by the Show - Looking reality – wonder –

The Psalmist goes on to say:

**3 Even the sparrow has found a home,
And the swallow a nest for herself,
Where she may lay her young —
Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts,
My King and my God.**

The Psalmist is Jealous of the birds who are content to perch in God’s Courts

A) It reminds me of something King David wrote

B) David was a King – sometimes He functioned as a Prophet –

C) But I believe David would have traded both to be a Priest!

1) That was His heart – He longed for and loved God’s presence.

Psalm 27:4. **“One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”**

D) One thing I Have desired – One Passion
That I will seek: - One Pursuit

What about you?

One Thing I have desired? _____

A) A husband - a wife – The answer is me

B) Money – wealth - It is me

Popularity - No it is me

That was David’s heart – God I have all of that – but what I really long for and need is You – more of you!

A) The writer of Psalm 84 feels the same way – He is – Envious of the birds

**4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;
They will still be praising You. SELAH.....**

B) That is the longing of the Pilgrim – one day stand in his Presence FOR REAL- HEAVEN

C) Q. In the midst of the Chaos going on in our world – hasn’t your Longing for heaven grown?

D) In Heaven – all the doctrinal issues – and the political issues and the social issues –

E) That the Devil loves to use to DIVIDE US –

1) WILL BE ALL GONE

The Bible says we don’t see things clearly – Foggy dimed - Right now we are confused at times –

A) We only know in Part – But there is day – we are going to see Jesus face to face

B) We are going to know all things – perfectly clear

1) Ok – Now I get it - **We long for that day**

C) Long for the day – all pain gone
1) **no more Cancer** – no more tears – no more divisions - broken relationships restored –

D) But right now – it is the Journey – we are moving and learning – we are being stretched

The 2nd verse or stanza of this song is about the Journey **RDV.5-8**

5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring;

The rain also covers it with pools.

7 They go from strength to strength;

Each one appears before God in Zion.

8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! SELAH

The Psalmist declared that His strength and Sustenance are found in the Lord – that is why his heart is set on pilgrimage.

A) In every heart there is a road map – a compass – heart is set on something.

B) **What is your heart set on?** What is the road map you are tuned into? GPS dialed into?

Proverbs 4:23

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

C) The heart is the deeper part of a man/ OUR desires spring forth from the heart

Life doesn't spring forth from the intellect- some of the smartest pp I know – do the stupidest things

A) **It is because of the heart –**

B) See the heart always makes a convert of the mind.

C) People moved by their heart / emotions can throw all rationale out the window – **“impulse buying”**

1) I really can't afford this – not sure I even need it but – such a good deal – GO FOR IT

D) **Dating – Godly couple** – when not being careful – let down their guard – heart emotions – get Physical

The heart that is set on pilgrimage is the heart that realizes that this world is not our home!

A) He realizes -Life here is temporary – he can't let himself be controlled by **IMPULSES**

B) HIS heart is longing for heaven – for glory

C) **We Read of Abraham – Moses –saints of old – what kept them going ?**

D) **They were looking for a city with foundations who's builder and maker is God. Hebrews 11:10**

They were journeying with that eternal perspective in view

A) We are not just existing we are going somewhere

B) When Paul was writing to the believers in the city of Philippi – he addressed them this way

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi

C) Two addresses: In Christ and in Philippi

That is what we have as well – In Christ – at N. County San Diego

A) If you haven't noticed our problem is not IN CHRIST – **our problem is in SD**

B) Our Problems THIS PLACE – *they have* to do with the Journey!

C) BUT -The Journey can be hard – full of difficulties – full of Valleys -

6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools.

The road often takes us thru the Valley of Ba/ca

A) The Valley of weeping or of tears

B) The **Valley is named after a tree** that only grows in dry and arid places

C) That is part of our Journey between grace and glory - **Dry valleys – times of weeping and tears**

D) This past week – weight of everything – I found myself a couple of times **WEEPING – NOT ME**

E) **NOTE THIS -AS they pass thru the Valley of Baca {weeping – they make it a spring – HOW?**

Now in that dry valley there were underground aqueducts that flowed in this desert –

A) **The Bedouins understood this** – they would dig to find those water sources for their refreshment

B) So too in the Christian life – there are those places that all of us come to drink – where we need to dig

C) Refreshment is not on the surface – it is deep

1) Have to dig – have to press into the Lord

The One who has set his heart on Pilgrimage

A) He gets in the Valley of Baca – you know what He does – **He just goes deeper** -

B) This dry time/ this Valley – this difficult time is not a time to quit – flesh out

C) It is a time to take my walk with Jesus deeper –

1) Press in – More time in the word – more time in Prayer – more fellowship -NOT LESS

D) Result : **7 They go from strength to strength;** They get stronger/ from strength to

HERE is what happens – that desert becomes a spring – a well – a reservoir of refreshment

A) That is why if you talk to anyone who has walked with Jesus for a while –

B) **They have grown the most in the Valley times**

C) In the Valley times the Lord wants to take us to go deeper – **no longer going to dwell on the surface**

1) Not content with surfacy Christianity

The Valley of Baca is a mandatory part of the course – not an elective –

A) But you are going to make it – V.7 b **Each one appears before God in Zion.**

B) Not some – all each one – listen you are going to make it!

C) Scientist in Norway – did these studies with these Norwegian Warf rats –big 13-18 inches

D) They put them in a tank of water – see how long they could swim before drowned – 18 hrs

1) **Those Guys are in shape –**

The next study they pulled one out -rescued it right before the 18 hour mark

A) The next time they put that rat in the tank – he lasted 23 hrs – why ? Hope of being rescued

B) The Christian whose heart is set on pilgrimage understands – I am going to be rescued.

1) There is hope Jesus is coming

C) Good news – Hang in there – Make it

1) Don't quit – go deep! – Dig refreshment is there

Lets finish by considering the 3rd stanza or verse to The song **V.9-12 Describes the Presence of the Lord when the Pilgrim finally arrives.**

9 O God, behold our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed.

10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.

11 For 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.

12 O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Note 3 Things about being in his prescene

#1 There is intimacy and favor in His Presence. V.9

NLT 9 O God, look with favor upon the king, our shield!

Show favor to the one you have anointed.

In his presence is Fullness of Joy

A) In his presence there is favor – closeness

B) God looks upon those who make the journey who put out the effort – with Favor

C) He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek him

#2 There is satisfaction in His presence. V.10

10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.

A)1000 what? – Cars / bucks / days Doesn't matter!

B)Nothing better than dwelling in God's presence and experiencing His glory

For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. Psalm 107:9

C)He is the only one who can fill the void and the hunger that you feel inside your heart

#1 There is intimacy and favor in His Presence

#2 There is satisfaction in His presence.

#3 There is blessing in His presence. V.11

For 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.

We were in darkness – but the Lord has shined the light of His SON UPON US

A)He is our sun and our shield

B)He will give grace and glory – Note will give grace puts it in the future tense.

C) It means that there is more grace for God to give and more grace for us to receive.

D)Grace is unmerited favor – God riches and resources at Christ expense –

God has grace for every situation – every trial – he gives more grace – Never runs out

A)Rob you used up your allotment for this month
You are on your own

B)His Grace abounds

1)Grace signifies both the good-will of God towards us and the good work of God in us;

C)He gives grace glory

Glory signifies both the honor which He now puts upon us, in giving us the adoption of sons/daughters

A)And that which he has prepared for us in the inheritance of being his sons and daughters

B)Think of it this way -God will give them grace in this world as a preparation for glory,

C)and glory in the other world as the perfection of grace; both are God's gift, his free gift

1)Grace is God's first gift, and glory is His last gift.

“Glory never comes without grace coming first, but grace never comes without glory coming last; the two are bound together” (Spurgeon)

D)The Blessings of his presence

- Intimacy and favor
- Satisfaction
- Grace and Glory

Conclusion

**12 O Lord of hosts,
Blessed is the man who trusts in You!**

This world can be like the valley of Baca – Be trying – it can be hard – times of weeping

A)But our Lord He leads us thru it – He doesn't abandon us in it –

B)As He leads us – as we draw near to Him – that Valley becomes a well

C)He leads us from Grace to Grace from strength to Strength –

Press into him today!

Don't know Him – Know this he loves you sent his son to come and pay the price for your sins

Three days later Rise – He Lives – he gives life to all who believe

Jesus is the only one who can fill the Longing in your soul today if you will let him