

Sermon Notes

WORSHIP SERVICE - 3.31.2024 - EASTER SUNDAY

PSALM 16 - FULLNESS OF JOY AND PLEASURES FOREVERMORE

I. INTRODUCTION

- What's your definition of the good life?
- What is it that would make you happy and cause you to say that you are experiencing the good life?
- The desire to be happy, of living the good life, is a universally shared desire.
- But the pursuit of happiness apart from God doesn't lead us to the good life.

- The Psalm we will look at today describes the good life, a life filled with joy and everlasting pleasures.
- And the ultimate hope that David, its author, expresses of the good life is directly connected to his relationship with the Lord.
- But this is an Easter psalm because a portion of what David describes as a blessing of the good life was fulfilled in Jesus at his resurrection.
- And his resurrection from the dead, is the only sure guarantee that we can even have the good life, fullness of joy and everlasting pleasures as the psalmist describes, with God as our safe refuge in life and in death, if HE is our greatest treasure.

Psalm 16:1-11

A Miktam of David.

1 Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you."

3 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,

in whom is all my delight.

4 The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;

their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out

or take their names on my lips.

5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;

you hold my lot.

6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

8 I have set the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being[e] rejoices;

my flesh also dwells secure.

10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

or let your holy one see corruption.

11 You make known to me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy;

at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

I. THE SOURCE OF THE GOOD LIFE

- Some classify this psalm as a psalm of lament.
- However, the shortness of the prayer for help, the lack of complaining about the specific situation that is causing the distress and the abundance of words expressing trust and confidence in the Lord, makes this psalm almost like a confession of confidence or a confession of faith in God.
- It is also a messianic psalm.

- We know David is the author of this psalm because it contains a title, a superscription, saying, “a Miktam of David.”
- The term “miktam” is found in only six psalms. The ESV has a footnote that this may be a musical or liturgical term.
- The word might mean “writing” and some commentators say that it is related to a word that means “to inscribe.”
- It is possible that this psalm was used as a prayer that was inscribed or written down to be offered to God over and over again.

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- This is the prayer that David is lifting up to God. “*Preserve me!*” “*Keep me safe!*” “*Watch over me!*”
- David seems to be in trouble, though we don’t know why.
- But here is what we see as the pattern of David’s life, in his distress, he goes to the Lord!
- His confidence is in the Lord to help him.

- “*In you I take refuge.*” David’s confidence, in whatever trouble he finds himself in, is that the Lord is the one who will keep him and watch over him.
- Do you see the Lord as your refuge?
- If you are in Christ, you can praise God that he preserved you.
- There are many things that the Lord has kept us safe from—we don’t really even know all of those things.
- God preserves his people.
- This is the blessing of Psalm 2:12 “Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”
- Then he writes, “*I say to the Lord,...*”
- This is a proclamation of how good God is and how good David has it in God.
- God is the source of the good life that David is experiencing.
- Now the name for God David uses here, and we translate as Lord, is the Lord’s covenant name, Yahweh.
- “You are my Lord.” David has made the Lord his God, he is in a personal, covenant relationship with the Lord.
- Lord, in this case is the Hebrew name for God, “Adonai.” The name used to speak of God’s sovereignty and authority.
- David acknowledges that God is the only Sovereign over his life.
- In Psalm 12:4, the wicked ask boastfully, “who is master over us?”
- David says to the Lord, “You are my Lord.”

IDOLATRY

- We can see his devotion to the Lord vividly expressed in his denunciation of the worship of false gods and idols.
- V4 The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.
- David is saying that he will not do anything that would constitute a show of allegiance or fealty to anyone or anything but the Lord.
- The history of Israel in the OT was a continual battle between the Lord and the idols they frequently turned to, for the affections of his people.
- An idol can be anything that we give the ultimate place in our heart that rightfully belongs to the Lord alone.
- An idol can be a good gift of God that we allow to take a supreme place in our heart.
- Here’s a quick way to discern idolatry in your life.
- Ask yourself, what consumes my time, the majority of my thought life, what is the substance of most of my conversations, and what do I spend most of your money on?
- Additionally, how do you react or behave when you don’t get the thing you want most?
- How do you respond when the thing you most want is taken away from you?
- Those who have not made the Lord, their Lord, and who chase after other gods will only find themselves with multiplied sorrows.
- Here’s what David knew and we need to know, the thing that has our affection, that holds our attention, that we value most, is what we will ultimately serve.
- If you don’t worship the living God, you will turn to the worship of idols.
- If we don’t worship the Creator we will turn our worship horizontally to worship something in creation.
- We can’t enjoy the good life if our hearts are pulled into idolatry.

THE ULTIMATE GOOD

- And David says to the Lord, *"I have no good apart from you."*
 - This could be translated a number of different ways. *"I have nothing good besides you"* or he could have also meant that he did not see the good things in his life as having a higher or more exalted place over the Lord.
 - David asserts that he treasures the Lord, he values Yahweh over everything else.
 - The Psalmist in Psalm 73:25 declared, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth I desire besides you."
 - You can have every material possession the world has to offer, but if you don't have the Lord, you have nothing, you don't have the good life.
- 5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. 6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
- This is a reference to the land division when the Lord gave the Israelites possession of the land of Canaan under Joshua.
 - The portion for the Levites-- Deut 18. While everyone else would receive a portion of the land, the Levites would have God himself as their inheritance.
 - The sentiment he is expressing is that the Lord is the only true satisfaction in his life, over any of the material blessings he has received from the Lord.
 - *"The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places..."* the boundaries around what David has inherited have been marked out, and the boundary lines have been drawn around God as what David will inherit!
 - God is his beautiful inheritance. God is his ultimate satisfaction in life.
 - Can you say that there is nothing greater than knowing the Lord?
 - In Christ, we too have received a glorious inheritance.
- These are the fundamentals of the Christian faith.
 - You must embrace the Lord as "my Lord."
 - What David expresses in this psalm is a commitment to obeying the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me."
 - And the second, "You shall not make for yourself an idol to bow down and serve."
 - The material blessings of the good life pale in comparison to the supreme treasure that the Lord is in the life of the believer.

GOD'S PEOPLE

- 3 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.
- David delights in godly people, those who fear the Lord.
- He delights in them because they share his commitment to love God and serve him.
- Because he loves God, he loves his people.
- When you think of other Christians, what comes to mind?
- Do you see God's people as a blessing of the good life?
- We need to see the people of God as a blessing of the good life when we treasure the Lord.
- And we must love them not because of who they are but because of who God is and because they belong to God.
- Love for God will lead to love for his people.
- Think about how the NT authors write with lofty and exalted language, when describing God's people.
- Colossians 3:12 God's chosen ones, holy and beloved...
- 1 Peter 2:9 a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a treasured possession

- Additionally, think about how God manifests his love, care, and provision for us through his people.
- Have you taken time to consider the love you receive from the people of God?
- It is a blessing of the good life to be surrounded by the people of God.
- Therefore, we should have an exalted view of this holy congregation, the saints of the Most High!

GOD'S COUNSEL

- 7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
- David declares that God's counsel is praiseworthy.
- Psalm 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.
- David meditates on God's word day and night, and the counsel from God's word guides, instructs, and corrects him.
- You can't have the good life unless you are following God's will. And God's will is revealed in God's Word.

GOD'S PROTECTION AND PLEASURES

- In vv8-11 David declares the benefits he has because he has set the Lord always before him, because he has treasured the Lord above every good thing he has; he will not be shaken, he will dwell secure, and God will not abandon his soul to the grave.
- He is rejoicing in God's protection and preservation.
- This is a statement of David's trust and confidence that God is his refuge as he prayed in v1.
- How many of us can say we are that confident in the Lord's protection?
- The thought of God's protection and security overwhelms his heart with praise and rejoicing.
- David trusts that God will deliver him, he won't abandon him to the grave.
- David is expressing the very sentiment of what the good life entails—God's presence that is an unceasing wellspring of joy and lasting pleasures for those who treasure him.
- The presence of God is the reward of the good life.
- He makes known to him the path of life—to walk with God and know his goodness is the good life.

II. RESURRECTION REWARDS

- This psalm should be read in tandem with Psalm 15.
- Q. Psalm 15:1 O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
- A. Psalm 15:2-5a He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; 4 in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the Lord; who swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
- Promise Psalm 15:5b He who does these things shall never be moved.
- What David is describing here is how one must live in order to experience the good life.

- But, here's the problem. David failed in this. He sinned. How then can he expect to dwell on God's holy hill—to live before his presence?
 - Not only David—what about us? We have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
- We must turn to the NT to find its ultimate fulfillment.
 - Because what David describes are resurrection rewards.
 - Acts 2:22-32 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 25 For David says concerning him, "'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' 29 "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.
 - David was prophesying, by inspiration of the Spirit, that because God had promised that his royal descendent would have an everlasting throne and kingdom, his descendent would not remain in the grave.
 - And Peter powerfully attests that God raised Jesus from the grave.
 - Acts 13:35-37 Therefore he says also in another psalm, "'You will not let your Holy One see corruption.' 36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, 37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.
 - David died, his body was laid in a tomb, he and everyone before him saw corruption.
 - But the one God has raised up, Jesus, the true Holy One, has not seen corruption.
 - He was not abandoned to the grave by going into it and then coming right out of it!
- What does that mean for us?
 - If Jesus is the fulfillment of what David wrote about long ago, the good life directly connected to a relationship with the Lord, treasuring the Lord, living a blameless life before the presence of God, how can we have that?
 - We can have that because Jesus is the one who walked out the blameless life perfectly.
 - He lived a perfect, sinless life.
 - This qualified him to become the ultimate sacrifice to pay for our sins and transgressions.
 - The resurrection is proof positive that God accepted Christ's substitutionary sacrifice by powerfully raising him from the dead.
 - That means we can have forgiveness of sins and that we can know God, because Christ reconciles us to the Father.
- And the good news is that for those who believe in him, who trust in what he has accomplished for them through his life, death, and resurrection, they can appropriate the promises and the blessing of the good life for themselves.

- He makes it possible to experience the blessing of the Lord's presence forever.
- He is our inheritance, our portion and our cup.
- It doesn't get any better than that—and here's the good news, it will never get worse!
- Because Jesus was not abandoned to the grave, we too will not be abandoned.
- At an appointed time, the dead in Christ will be raised imperishable, our mortal bodies will put on immortality.
- We will have resurrected bodies like unto our Lord's. Our flesh will dwell secure.
- We will enter into our glorious inheritance, living before the presence of God, an eternal stream of pleasures and delights, because God is the supreme treasure of the universe and Christ has made it possible for us to live before him.
- He's not in the grave! He's alive!
- And because he lives, we can have the good life, fullness of joy, and pleasures forevermore, because the Lord is our delight!

APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?