

# #1 The Heart of Worship

7-8-26

## *Psalms 84 - Longing for God's Presence*

### I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online.
- B. **Slide1 Student Ministries Summer Events:** Our student ministries still have plenty of events and activities going on, *summer camps, beach trips, water park trips, & devotions at the park*. Please check our website/app under the **Events tab** for more info and to register your child.
- C. **Slide2 Community Groups Leader Training:** Have you ever wanted to grow closer to others here at Calvary Murrieta? Would you like to have a group that shared stories and prayed together? That only happens if we have facilitators and leaders who host and lead Community Groups. As one of our leaders said, you don't have to have a PHD in theology! You just need a heart for God's people and His Word. **Facilitators are paired together so you're never leading a group alone.** Training sessions starting Wed, July 15 from 6:30pm to 7:45pm in Room LC1 across from the Caffeine Collective. The training runs for 4 weeks and childcare is provided. **Sign up** today online under the **Events tab** on our website/church app.
- D. **Slide3 Bloom Talks:** Ladies remember, Shannon Quintana, this Tues, 7pm, FH.
- E. Prayer:

### II. Slide4 Intro:

- A. July Series: **The Heart of Worship.**
  - 1. **Ask:** What comes to your mind when you hear worship? Or, Define **worship**. (music yes - **but Worship is desiring** God's presence. **Worship is joyfully gathering** with God's people. **Worship is responding** with every part of our lives).
- B. **Slide5 Week 1 - Ps.84 - Why We Worship: Longing for God's Presence.**
  - 1. Worship begins with a heart that desires God.
- C. Week 2 - **Ps.122 - Why We Gather: The Joy of Gathering.**
  - 1. Worship is meant to be experienced together as the people of God.

D. **Slide6** Week 3 - **Worship Night** - **The Heart of Worship**.

1. No sermon. Simply responding to God in praise, prayer, Scripture, communion, and reflection.

E. **Slide7** Week 4 – **Ps.150** - **Why We don't stop worshipping when the music stops** - it becomes the lifestyle of every believer: **Let Everything Praise the Lord**.

F. [Picture a set of expanding circles]

1. **My Heart** (Ps.84) I long for God.
2. **Our Heart** (Ps.122) We gather before God.
3. **Our Response (Worship Night)** We worship God together.
4. **Our Life** (Ps.50) We leave and praise God with everything we are.
  - a) Worship **begins with a longing** - **grows in a gathering** - and **overflows into a lifestyle**.

G. **Tonight** - Ps.84 - **Longing For God's Presence**.

H. Big Idea: True worship begins with a heart that longs for God more than it longs for God's blessings.

I. Key Verse: *How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!* (Psalm 84:1)

### III. **Slide8 PSALM 84 INTRO Longing For God's Presence**

A. Big Idea: True worship begins with a heart that longs for God more than it longs for God's blessings.

B. Key Verse: *How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!* (84:1)

C. **Have you ever missed someone so much, that every reminder made you want to be with them even more?** [most of us have experienced homesickness]

1. *Maybe it was college. Military deployment. Mission field. Hospital stay. Business trip.* Home wasn't just a place, it was where the people you loved were.

D. **Psalm 84** is the song of someone who is homesick - **not** for a *place*, but for **God**.

1. The sons of Korah weren't admiring architecture, they were longing for communion.
2. The **Heart** of worship isn't music. It isn't emotion. It isn't a building. It is *longing for the presence of God*.

#### IV. Slide9 I. WORSHIP BEGINS WITH DESIRE (1-4)

- A. *1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. 3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. 4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah*
- B. Note the progression: "*I long - I faint*". "*My heart and flesh sing for joy...*"
1. This is worship that reaches every part of a person.
  2. The psalmist doesn't merely want answers. He wants God.
- C. Even the **sparrow** and **swallow** have found a place near God's altar.
1. **The smallest birds are welcome. Listen ... Everyone who comes near Him finds a home.**
- D. Many people seek: *God's help. God's wisdom. God's provision. But worship* asks for something greater - **God Himself!**
1. One of the greatest dangers in Christianity is loving what God gives more than loving God.
- E. Christ Connection: **Jesus** made *God's presence* permanently available.
1. Because of Christ, we don't travel to a temple, **we become His temple through the Holy Spirit.**
- F. **What** do I most often seek from God? If God answered none of my requests today, would I still want Him? **Does** my worship reveal affection or merely *obligation*?

#### V. Slide10 II. WORSHIP GIVES STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY (5-8)

A. 5 *Blessed are those whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. 6 As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early 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*

B. Notice that the journey includes the Valley of Baca.

1. "Baca" probably refers to weeping. God never promises a path without valleys. He promises His presence through them.
2. Those who seek Him *turn valleys into places of springs*.
  - a) They go from strength to strength. Not because life becomes easier, but because God meets them along the way.

C. Illustration: Think about hiking, the destination motivates you. But every step depends upon continual strength. God rarely gives us strength for next year, He gives enough grace for today's step.

D. Application: Worship isn't an escape from life's difficulties. It becomes the fuel that carries us through them. *Sunday worship prepares us for Monday's battles*.

E. **Where** is my Valley of Baca right now? Am I relying on God's strength or my own? Is worship something I attend or something that **sustains me**?

## VI. Slide 11 III. WORSHIP CHANGES OUR VALUES (9-12)

A. 9 *Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!*

B. The famous verse, *For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere*.

1. David **wasn't** comparing *good versus bad*, he **was** comparing the very best the world offers with **one day near God**.

- C. I would rather be *a doorkeeper* - even the lowest place near God surpasses the highest place away from Him.
- D. Then comes one of Scripture's greatest promises. *No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.*
1. God is not stingy, He is **generous**. Sometimes His greatest gift is giving us **Himself**.
- E. Illustration: A child may want **the presents** under the Christmas tree, **but** maturity realizes the greatest gift is **having the family together**. Likewise, mature worship values **the Giver** above **His gifts**.
- F. Christ Connection: Jesus is Emmanuel, **God with us**. The greatest blessing God has ever given wasn't a miracle. It was **Himself**.
- G. What competes for 1st place in my heart? Would I honestly say one day with God is better than anything else? What does my schedule reveal that I value most?

## VII. Slide 12a CONCLUSION - CHRIST CONNECTION - CHALLENGE

### A. Conclusion

B. The psalm begins with **longing**, it ends w/trust - *blessed is the one who trusts in you.*

1. Longing leads to worship. Worship deepens into trust. Trust produces blessing

C. The Christian life isn't simply learning more about God, it's wanting Him more.

### D. Christ Connection

E. Psalm 84 longed for access to God's dwelling place. - Jesus became the true Temple. Through His death, the veil was torn. **Now**, through Christ, **we don't simply visit** God's presence - we are welcomed into it with confidence (Heb.10:19-22 NLT)

1. Slide 12b And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into **the presence of God** with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's

blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

F. **Challenge** (The FQM Challenge) *Five Quiet Minutes*

G. Spend *five quiet minutes* each day this week *without asking God for anything*.

Instead, simply enjoy **His presence** through *praise, thanksgiving, and Scripture*.

1. Let the prayer be, “*Lord, I didn’t come today primarily for what You can give me. I came because **I want You**.*”

H. I think that practice will *beautifully reinforce* our central message of Psalm 84: *that **Worship begins with a heart that longs for God Himself***.

I. Keywords: worship, presence, trust.