

Ps 84—The Longings of an Exile for the Courts of the Lord

An earnest longing, vv.1-2

- I. What was it about the courts of the Lord that so captured David's affections? It was the Lord Himself. David's heart ached for communion with God.
 - A. Of course, God was with David in exile, Heb 13.5; Ps 23.4-5
 - B. But a visit of God to our souls in exile is not the same as a visit with God in His own house, Ps 87.2-3
 - 1. That's why the Scriptures are full of the Lord's calling His people to public worship, Ps 100
 - 2. And this is why David pines for God, because nothing is more satisfying to a child of God than public worship where our souls commune and fellowship with the God of all grace.
- II. Does this Psalm mean more to you now than it did 3 months ago?
 - A. How did you read this Psalm when you enjoyed weekly public worship?
 - B. Why do you think God closed the doors of His house to us?
 - C. What should we learn from our time in exile?

A passionate eulogy, vv.3-7

- I. David eulogized the birds who enjoyed the privilege of nesting in the neighborhood of God's sanctuary.
 - A. What an adorable and holy jealousy this was! Would you change places with the birds of the sanctuary if you could?
- II. David eulogized the ministering priests and Levites who daily labored in the house of God.
 - A. David would've gladly traded places with them! Do you envy the priests who daily handled the means of grace and beheld the face of Jesus in them?
- III. David even eulogized the men who were traveling to the house of God for the annual feasts.
 - A. The exiled and hunted David would've loved to have been a pilgrim on the road to God's house!

- IV. Whom do you envy? If you found yourself cut off from worship and could trade places with anyone, who would it be? How has your exile affected your heart's desires?

A fervent prayer, vv.8-12

- I. David prays that God would look on His Christ, who is the church's shield and the Father's anointed.
 - A. It's a prayer that the Lord would restore us to His house and bless us with every spiritual blessing, only for the sake of Christ, who gave Himself for us that we might know communion with God.
 - B. It's a prayer for all times; but it's a prayer that exiles know best.
- II. David backs his fervent prayer to be restored to God's house with 5 reasons, each of which highlights why he pined for the house of God, why no other place would do, why his soul longed for worship, and why he was lovesick for communion with God.
- III. This psalm is a psalm of extreme passion and love for the God of our salvation. It's a soul in love with God crying out for the manifestation of God's love.
 - A. What was it that made David feel this way? What was it that drew out these fiery affections? It was exile.
 - B. This begs several questions: what do you think of public worship now? What's in a Lord's Day for you? Did you find your heart pining for God?
 - 1. Then bless God for the work of the pandemic on your heart; and bless God for the isolation that sharpened your desires for Him and for His house.
 - 2. Humble yourselves that you ever thought less of a Lord's Day than you do now and pray that your ardent love for His presence may never abate.
 - C. And while we journey on in this life, grateful for public worship, let us pine for the worship of heaven, when our hearts will at last pine no more as we behold the face of Christ in glory, Rev 21.1-4