

Roots: Planted by the River

June 3 & 6, 2010

Psalm 1 & Exodus 33

Introduction:

- Someone accused me of being “ADD” the other day. Not offended by that, honestly.
- I get bored, I have to shake it up a little, change things, love change.
- Don't like ruts, where this kills me is in matters of disciplines (eating, exercise, spiritual growth)
- I have to be a constant gardener of my life...tending, cultivating, otherwise...

- Words to describe you walk with God right now: dried up, bored, lifeless, dulled, numb, laborious or full, exciting, life-giving, on fire, intimate, fruitful, joyful

- Psalms 1 & 2 are the entry point to the Psalms, one author writes that they are like a “garden gate”

Psalm 1

1) *Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.*

- I read this first verse and my first thought is “that’s not me”
- some translations [walk, stands, sit]
- Stages away from the glory of God:
 - 1) wicked/ungodly - aim for nothing / unsettled / undetermined
 - 2) sinners - set up sin as their trade / consumed by it
 - 3) mockers - set their mouths against God (you are not here by your own desire / coming into this building does nothing!)

- The opposite of those 3 stages is the godly
 - 1) godly - aim for God / seeking His advice from the instructions and truth He gives!
 - 2) godly - repent when they sin, turn from it, are broken, returning to the Word of God, fixing themselves to it.
 - 3) godly - standing against those who mock, they believe in their hearts and confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord (Rom. 10:9)

2) *But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.*

- Here is where the church has failed, we’ve changed a word in this verse...and all of scripture...
- Let me set you up for failure, let me give you a miserable, lifeless, spiritless walk with God...cross out the word “delight” and change the verse to “but their DUTY is in...”
- Duty isn’t a bad word, but for the godly...the desire and delight of knowing more of God and His Glory is something done not out of duty or obligation, but because you want that intimate relationship with God...you want to walk with Him, Stand in His Path, Sit next to Him! You desire and delight to know Him more!

- Exodus 33:12-23

A.W. Tozer's Pursuit of God

"The whole transaction of religious conversion has been made mechanical and spiritless. Faith may now be exercised without a jar to the moral life and without embarrassment to the Adamic ego. Christ may be "received" without creating any special love for Him in the soul of the receiver."

"The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire."

- Remember the definition of the "wicked"? They are aimless, they go with the flow!
- Some of you don't want to be bothered, "I come to church, I serve in a ministry, I tithe, so leave me alone...I've done my DUTY."
- But my question is, "Where is your DELIGHT?"

3) They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.

***Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all they do.***

- Summer is such a dry time! By July, if we aren't watering our grass a gazillion times a week, it begins to brown and go dormant.
- Can be a dry time for our faith too
- With the school year ending, programming around the church can change
- Those who DELIGHT in the Words from God, His instructions, His Truth, who desire to know Him in prayer and meditation...they are like trees planted next to the river!
- A constant flow of nourishment and life
- The relationship you have with God, your walk with Him, depends on where you plant yourselves.
- Your ability to produce fruit, to prosper and grow your faith, depends on where you are planted!
- Where are you planted?
- #1 - Are you in Christ at all?
 - What will you do? Who will you be? Who will you follow?

#2 - You've accepted Christ, but you are so dried up, bored stiff and withering on the vine because you've not delighted in the "knowing of God" You've done your DUTY, so you blame the church for not taking you "deep" enough.

- Right now you are dying for me to give you 3 easy steps to a deeper life with God!
- I'll give you 2 - Hunger and Thirst for God
- "When is that class starting?"
- Hunger & Thirst for God!!
- It means...
 - Shutting off the TV and picking up your bible
 - getting on your knees and praying fervently
 - coming to worship and really, really, really worshipping

- it means taking that tithe or offering and praying to God to not only accept your gift, but use it for His Kingdom!
- it means putting others first, helping, serving, giving

- NONE OF THESE out of DUTY, but out of DELIGHT! A desire to see the Glory of God!

4) But not the wicked!

They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

5) They will be condemned at the time of judgment.

Sinners will have no place among the godly.

- Scariest passage in scripture - **Mark 11:12-14 & 20-22**
- Notice which stage He starts with - the wicked and aimless!
- Are you bearing fruit? I've got leaves, so I look like a tree! I have the appearance of a TREE! I wear Christian t-shirts, listen to Christian radio and carry my bible (well actually, I left it in the car...but others can see it!). But are you bearing fruit?

**6) For the Lord watches over the path of the godly,
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.**

- He knows the way of the righteous
- Does God know who you are walking with, Him or the wicked?
- Does God know what path you are standing on, with Him or with sinners?
- Does God know who you are sitting with, with Him or with those who mock Him?
- Yes. God knows you. God is not interested in you committing to some religious duty. His desire for you is to delight in Him, to be planted in Him, to bear fruit for Him.
- He watches over us as we do this!

So, **How can you grow deeper, stronger roots?**

* Next week, I'm going to unpack these further!

- Set spiritual goals for the summer
- Get connected
- Eliminate distractions
- Fervent prayer

Tozer's Prayer:

"O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, that so I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me."