



Sermon Growth Guide

May 23, 2021

What David Knew - Savior

Psalm 27

Key Verse: Psalm 27:4 “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

Big Idea: God saves us, dwells in us and gives us a part to play in His story.

Foundations

Today is Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate God pouring out His Spirit into His people, empowering them to live on His mission—and also, welcome back Big Blue! Pentecost Sunday 2021 is coinciding in no little way with a felt great lessening of COVID restrictions in our city. How has God used a truly terrible virus to shape you even more into the likeness of His son, Jesus (Romans 8:29)?

David knew that God is Savior. Psalm 27 opens with these words: “The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” In God’s salvation we are given peace with God and courage to walk each and every day on the level path of God’s kingdom.

God saves us, dwells in us and gives us a part to play in His story. Paul implores us in Ephesians 4:16 that the church “grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” You have a part to play in God’s mission here at First Pres. Today is “My Part Sunday.” How has God gifted you to be Light and Life in this city through this body of believers?

Rejoice together that God’s power and presence are poured out on His people. Pray to walk in God’s Kingdom of Light and Life!

Understanding God’s Word

Respond to David’s opening questions in verse one of Psalm 27. What does David have to fear if David’s salvation is secure in the Lord?

What is “the one thing” that David most desires in verse four?

The final two verses of Psalm 27, verses 13 and 14, have what hope and charge embedded within them?

Applying God’s Word

Psalm 27:4 draws out a stunning purity of will in David’s heart in this season of his life. David desires God alone: “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” Is this your one great desire? How can you cultivate this desire?

Witnessing God’s Word

We are saved in Christ, indwelled by the Spirit and commissioned to play a part in God’s story by the will of the Father. How are you / can you play a part in God’s mission here at First Pres? How is God inviting you to use your gifts to witness God’s grace in Christ through your active participation in this worshipping community?

No matter where you are, there is a Psalm to reach you and lead you back home to God.

On March 8, 2020, our Sanctuary choir led us in worship. They sang “Jesus, the One and Only.” At the end of the service, they marched out. None of us had any idea it would be over a year later before they stepped up into the choir loft again. Going into this crisis we were determined to say two things coming out the other side: (1) we never failed the mission Christ has given us, and (2) we sacrificed our preferences to love our city. First Pres, we did it! That’s what I’m claiming today. We did it. Glory to God! We did it. I went to the gym this week (that’s not the remarkable part) and there was a sign on the door, “No More Masks!” Let me tell you, if you haven’t run on a treadmill sweating and puffing into a paper mask... We are approaching the end of this thing, church, and we are stronger for it. Don’t leave this crisis behind unchanged. Don’t walk out of this fire without being purified. Don’t quench this forge without being tempered for greater strength. What the enemy meant for evil, God is turning for good.

Today is Pentecost Sunday, the day the Holy Spirit poured down on the church like fire. I am telling you today to be ready, seek the Lord and prepare your hearts. An outpouring of the Holy Spirit is coming like we have never experienced. Now is the time.

Pray for it and be ready. Some of you have walked in here today dead men and women. You can’t feel what those around you are feeling. You can’t see what they see. You can’t hear what they hear. You are spiritually dead. I’m going to help you. The Lord is going to reach you. You came in dead, but you will leave here alive. Some of you logged on, and you don’t know why. You feel dead inside; walking dead. You will leave today with new life in Jesus Christ. At the end of this message you will talk to Jesus, and you will give Him your deadened life, and you will find, for the first time, the life that is truly life—the life Jesus your Savior won for you.

We are studying the Psalms of David, and asking ***What David Knew***; we are finding Jesus in the Psalms of David. Today is Psalm 27. What David knew is that he needed a **Savior**. Last week, Pastor Michael led us through Psalm 51, when David cried out to the Lord for forgiveness. “Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow...Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:7, 10). David’s sin was so deep, the destructive effects of it so broad, and messy and twisted up, there was no way to make up for it. He watched the priests make sacrifices on



the Temple Mount; he knew a thousand bulls are not going to make up for this or make him clean again. “You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings” (Psalm 51:16). So what did David do? “My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise” (Psalm 51:17). He threw himself on the mercy seat of God in hopes that a more perfect sacrifice might come, a full atoning sacrifice, a Savior. “It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: ‘Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me’ ... we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Hebrews 10:4–5, 10). There is a perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

What David knew is that he needed a Savior. He found it in the Lord. At least, the Spirit of God gave him such a glimpse that he had a hope such a Savior was coming—and he rested all his faith on that hope. “The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1). “My salvation.” Yeshua-i. Jesus in the Psalms of David. Who am I supposed to be afraid of again?

I am not stumbling along in the dark here, the Lord is my light. What is supposed to grip me with fear? My life is held by God. God is the stronghold of my life. There is such a thing as peace with God beyond understanding. There is such a thing as being at peace with God in a world of turmoil. “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38–39). Peace with God. Fearless life. “When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident” (Psalm 27:2–3). Imagine someone running to attack you, then they trip and skid across the ground! Imagine David and Goliath. War can break out against me. I’m fine. I’m at peace. I’m with the Lord.

“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple” (Psalm 27:4). One thing I ask. One thing I seek. This the power of focused



love, a singular goal. “‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one’” (Luke 10:41–42). Only one. One thing. Jesus. “For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5). Is it a temple or a tent? A building or a temporary structure? The tent is the Tabernacle, the place of sacrifice and nearness to God that traveled all through the desert under Moses. David wanted to build a Temple. Late in his life he looked out from his palace over to the Temple Mount and saw the holy things of God and the holy practices of the priests and Levites, all in a tent, the Tabernacle. He had a vision to build the Temple. But God stopped his hand and left it to Solomon, his son. David longed to be in that Temple with God. In that sanctuary.

What did David want? The Temple, the tent, was a place of communion with God; a place to be in the very presence of God. “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple” (Psalm 27:4). To be with God. To seek

the Lord. To gaze on His beauty. To dwell, abide, in His presence. That’s what David wants, to be with God. After all he had been through. See I believe this Psalm is toward the end of David’s life. After the shepherd boy was anointed by God; after the giant Goliath was felled by stone and sling; after David eluded King Saul in the desert and hid among foreign nations; after David became King and established Jerusalem; after his horrific affair with Bathsheba and murderous coverup and shame and penitence; after another horrible mistake we haven’t even talked about. David numbered the nation. David held a census. Why is that so bad? You only count the population for one of two reasons, either you want to tax them, (Don’t you have enough gold, David?) or you want to raise an army to conquer a neighboring nation (Don’t you have enough land, David? The borders extend to all God promised Abraham. Aren’t you satisfied?) No. David counted the people to prepare for more and more and more ... but God stopped him, painfully. After all those things, all those trials, all that striving. What?

“What do you want, David? More money? What do you want? More land? More power? You command armies. More glory? The people sing about you, Saul



killed his thousands; but David his ten thousands. After all that what do you want, David?” “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple” (Psalm 27:4). Peace with God in a world of turmoil. I want God. David is thinking of a tent, a temple, a building—four walls—and he says, “to be with God, I would sit in that room, I would live in that tent, I would stay there my whole life just to be with God. Just to know His presence. I would stay right there forever.” David wanted the personal presence of God. “Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, ‘Seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, I will seek” (Psalms 27:7–8). Answer me back when I talk to you, I want us to know each other, personally. Let me see your face when I turn my face to you. I want to know you, Lord, personally, intimately. David wanted a personal Savior.

To experience that intimacy with God, David would give up everything and sit himself inside the inner chamber of the Temple. Little did he know, in Christ, the Temple would be turned inside out. Where is that presence now? Where is the Temple now? After Jesus, after He came and died for our sins, and rose

again, and poured out His Holy Spirit to live in us, believers, we are the Temple of God, “with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit” (Ephesians 2:20–22). We are the Temple. All David wanted of the presence of God, you can have it right here, right now. Jesus has made us His Temple by the outpouring of His Holy Spirit into us, His church.

You have a part to play. Today is My Part Sunday. I want you to take up this card, or you at home, follow the link. None of you is here by accident. God has called you here for a purpose, to build up the Temple of the Lord. You have a part to play. “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16). Where is God calling you to serve for His glory? We are all going to check a few things and turn this in, submitting ourselves to serve the Lord in His house, to His glory. God is about to pour out His Spirit in remarkable ways. Submit your name. Be willing to serve. Later this summer you will hear back from the church and we will invite you to a training day



on August 14th as we all prepare to serve and do our part. God is building up this church. Together we are the Temple.

But also you, you are the Temple. “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?” (1 Corinthians 6:19). You are a temple, a dwelling place, for the Holy Spirit to reside within you. David said, “build a temple and I will go in. I will be consumed by it. I will stay inside it forever.” Jesus says, “you are my Temple. You will not be consumed by me; I will be consumed by you. My body is your bread; my Spirit is your tenant. I will reside within you, and wherever you go, I will be with you. You will know my presence always, every moment, in every place, no matter how far you wander, no matter how far you are carried off, I will be with you and you will be with me, forever.” What do you want David? After all I’ve seen, after all I’ve tried, after all my mistakes, after all my glories are done and faded, I want the Lord, God my Savior, Yeshua-i, I want to be with you Lord. That’s all I want. That’s all I want.

But some of you walked in here dead. It’s time to find life. David knew God is a Savior who creates a temple that is a house and a stronghold. God saves us and

pulls us into safety. He will not turn us over again to those who want to reverse His blessings and destroy our lives. Having won us to Himself, God keeps us safe forever. How does it happen? It happens in Jesus. Because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, the Spirit of God now dwells with us. You don’t go to a temple; you are a temple, a house, a stronghold. The Spirit of God still pours out on us. The Spirit of God rains down from Heaven. It enters our very hearts as we cry out, “Lord, help! Lord, forgive! Lord, save! O God, my Savior!” I want to invite you to pray and meet the Lord today. I’m going to give you a moment to be quiet before the Lord your Savior, Jesus. To speak to Him. Then I want to lead you, you can follow in prayer after me. You may have walked in dead, but you can walk out alive in Christ, a life you’ve never imagined, but a life you’ve always wanted, with your Savior. Let’s pray, “Lord Jesus, You are God my Savior, You are my help, You are my stronghold, thank you for giving your life for me, I give my life to you, reside in me, pour out your Holy Spirit over me, and make me a temple to Your glory, forever and ever. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

