

Sermon 6/14 and 18, 2017 Trusting the Trinity Psalm 27

Dear Servants of the Triune God:

According to surveys when people are asked what to you fear the most the following list occurs...

What do you fear?

10. Losing my freedom 9. Unkown 8. Pain 7. Dissapointment 6. Misery

5. Loneliness 4. Ridicule 3. Rejection 2. Death 1. Failure

“I sought the Lord and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears...” Ps 34:6

What does fear do to us?

- Fear immobilizes
- Fear intimidates

Fear can make us feel guilty about something that happened in the past or it can make us feel afraid about something that may happen in the future.

Fear can keep us from enjoying life right now in the present.

Life is filled with things that may cause us to fear...

- A ride in an ambulance
- Layoffs at work
- News about terrorists
- A phone call at 3:00 AM

“We fear being sued, finishing last, going broke; we fear the mole on the back, the new kid on the block, the sound of the clock as it ticks us closer to the grave...” *Fearless* Max Lucado p. 5

King David often was put in fearful situations.

- His own son, Absalom tried to kill him
- King Saul tried to kill him

But David learned to take his fears to the Lord.

In Psalm 27 David has 3 conversations that help him balance his life.

- He talks to himself about the privileges he has in the Lord
- He talks to the Lord about his problems
- He talks to himself about perseverance in the Lord

This Psalm reminds us that it is the Triune God who watches over us...

- The Father who protects us
- The Son who redeemed us
- The Spirit who helps us in our weaknesses

The Holy Trinity is with us...

I. The Triune God is our light and salvation vv1-9

A. The Trinity is light and strength

Wherever we are the Trinity is with us.

John 14:1, 23 “Do not let your hearts be troubled...If anyone loves Me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

We have the Lord’s light and strength. The Trinity takes care of those things that bother me. The Trinity for us is light, defense and protection.

Zephaniah 3:17 “The Lord your God is with you...He will quiet you with His love...”

- We take comfort in the Light.
 - We feel secure when we are in a well-lighted area like a shopping area parking lot
- Light is positive, truth and safety
- We take comfort when we are in a fortified place
- The Holy Trinity is our fortified place and our eternal light

David asks 2 questions...

- Whom shall I fear?
- Of whom shall I be afraid?

- If an individual's heart is thus established in God, what or whom could he fear?
- **Romans 8:31 "If God is for us, who can be against us?"**

V2 David's enemies are like vicious beasts who caused him...

- Physical harm
- Slander
- Defamation

A 6 foot 6 inch man who weighed over 400 pounds once admitted: "There's nobody I can't whip. But down inside my skin I am scared to death...down inside of me there's a little boy that's scared to death. I have worked out a way to handle this---with my fists. But deep down I am afraid."

People we look at and think are secure and self-confident but are often deep down inside afraid.

Whom shall I dread? Who will intimidate me?

David asked these questions. He asked these questions when as a young man he faced the giant Goliath.

- He was not intimidated by Goliath
- He knew that the "Battle was the Lord's"
- The God of David is our God: "I am your light, your salvation and your defense"

What did David face? The same things we do. Vv2-3

David was fighting alone against an army.

- King Saul's entire army was sent out to get one man, David.
- This was the height of intimidation.
- David was surrounded by Saul's army as he hid in a cave
- Despite this David was confident, secure and feared nothing v3

B. The Triune God gives us confidence

Confidence in this context does not mean self-confidence.

- It doesn't mean human cleverness

- Rather, it means “to be secure, to have assurance”
- The Father, Son and Holy Spirit is our source of assurance

How did confidence ---God-confidence ---come to David?

One thing I ask of the Lord

V4 He had one thing on his heart.

- David sought God’s presence
- David was preoccupied with God’s person

David looked upon the Lord.

- He meditated upon the Lord’s Word
- He saw the beauty of the Lord
- He saw the brightness of the Lord

David did not ask God for a 100 things but for 1 thing.

- He asked the Lord for help to practice the presence of the Lord in every moment.
V5
- He hid himself in the Lord.
- His dwelling place was in the meditation of the Lord’s Word

Safe in His dwelling

David’s imagery of “safe in His dwelling” gives us a picture of being surrounded by protection. David is speaking about a conscious, continuous fellowship with the living Lord. He is speaking about “practicing the presence of God” through meditation upon God’s Word.

In essence David was saying: “When I walk out of this cave, not knowing where the spears are coming from, I know that I will be surrounded by Your protection. I will be in Your house and safe. Nothing will break our relationship.”

My security is in the Lord. Period.

When we are intimidated we often lack confidence and are conscious of the person attacking us. When this happens see yourself in the tent or house of the Lord beholding

the beauty of the Lord and saying: “Right now, God, I don’t have anything I can draw upon; I am all Yours.”

Bold faith comes from fellowship with the Holy Trinity.

Seek His Face

In verses 7-9 David begins his prayer.

David meant every word of his prayer. Lord, I cannot go into this situation without You. You provide my needs and give me strength.

God says to us...

- I promise you My presence
- Count on Me
- I will hide you in My shelter
- God’s face indicates His presence

Isaiah 49:16 “See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before Me.”

“Walls” were large writing tablets to record one’s life, family achievements, events.

II. The Holy Trinity is in control of my life vv10-14

A. The Lord keeps my balanced in life v11

* He teaches me the level path – He shows me the path to safety away from danger and trouble.

* He shows me His goodness v13

* He has defeated my enemies of sin, death and the devil

B. The Lord gives me courage

* to admit when I am afraid

* to commit my fears to the Lord

* to release my fears to God

* to refuse to retreat

Psalm 55:22 “Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.”

Wait for the Lord

V14 Wait for the Lord - expect Him to act, be alert for His mercy and love

Fear may fill our world, but it doesn't have to fill our hearts...Max Lucado

Jesus made one command more than any other in the Gospel's: “Don't be afraid”

- So don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows Mt 10:31
- Take courage...your sins are forgiven Mt 9:2
- Don't be afraid..Just believe Lk 8:50
- Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul Mt 10:28
- Don't let your hearts be troubled...I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. Jn 14:1ff
- You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Mt 24:6

As the Lord told the Israelites after their captivity by the Babylonians

Creator + Redeemer + Sanctifier

“But now, this is what the Lord says --- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

- When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
- When you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you
- When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze
- **Do not be afraid, for I am with you.”**
Isaiah 43:1ff