



APPNOTES

Date: May 11-15 , 2020

Series: On Edge

Psalm 139:1-10 David wrote this psalm. He was the one who killed Goliath, the one that led Israel in battle, the one who was made king. He was also the one who committed adultery and then murdered someone to cover it up. God still called him “the man after God’s own heart.” And in the opening words of this psalm, David says, “You searched me and you know me.” God knows everything he did. But rather than turn away from David, God was always there: “Where can I go from your presence?” The answer is: nowhere. There is nowhere I can go that God is not already there. The same is true for you. He wants to be near you, because you’re that precious to Him. He proved it when His Son, Jesus, died on a cross for our sins. He proves it everyday when He is near to us. Always near, always good.

Psalm 73:21-28 If you read the entire psalm, you’ll see the author wondering why those who hate God are blessed while he, a man faithful to God, is afflicted. I’ve felt like that. How about you? Yet verse 23 is the turning point. All of this is true – the affliction, the bitterness: “Yet I am always with You; You hold me by my right hand.” When a parent and child walk through a crowd, the child is jostled and feels anxious because he cannot see what’s ahead. But his father is holding his hand. A small child might be carried on his father’s shoulders, but an older child must walk because he is too big to carry. We can be encouraged that as we grow in our relationship with Christ, we will walk through various trials but never alone. And the end result, as the psalmist says in the last verse, is that we tell others about the goodness of God.

Psalm 34:4-8 What is your favorite dessert? Angel food cake with berries? Decadent chocolate? For me, it’s tiramisu. But there’s nothing like a piece of Godiva. My friend Ruth always had a bag of “by the pound” Godiva in her fridge. Her husband went to the warehouse once a year to buy from the bin of misfits at a deep discount. The swirls on top were less than perfect, but they still tasted heavenly. He would buy several pounds of chocolate, and if no other dessert was on the menu, each person was allowed one piece after dinner, because the bag had to last all year. We savored those tiny pieces of chocolate. We tried to make it last. Taste and see that the Lord is good. But not handed out piece by piece because it’s a rare treat. Dive in. Surround yourself with His goodness. Blessed are they that take refuge in Him.

John 15:4-8 “Abide” is not a word we use often in everyday language. It means to remain, to reside, to settle in. On long winter nights, we settle into a good movie with popcorn, curled up in a blanket; all we want to do is stay there. When storms rage outside, we want to stay where we’re safe. Jesus tells His disciples, while they’re sharing the last meal before His crucifixion, that they must remain in God like branches connected to a vine. When a vineyard is pelted with rain, the branch that is torn from the vine will shrivel and die in tomorrow’s sun. But the branch that withstands the storm will live and bear much fruit. When life’s storms beat you up, cling to God. He is near. And after the storm, you will bear much fruit, for the Father’s glory.

Hebrews 10:19-25 God promises that He will always be near, but a jailer may be near a prisoner but still on the other side of the bars. What matters is that God is both near and approachable. He is a holy, just God who nevertheless cares for us deeply. So deeply, in fact, that He allowed His Son to die in my place. In your place. It is through the death of Jesus that we are forgiven and through His resurrection that we are given eternal life. The jail cell has been opened because the sentence we deserved, death, has been served. For that reason we can draw near to God, believing this to be true, and rejoicing in it. God is always good and always close. If you haven’t already, will you accept what Jesus has done on your behalf and draw near to God?

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