

Psalm 1 for 2021

From a very young age, the Psalms have proven a permanent fixture in my Christian walk. More than any other part of the Holy Scriptures, I have returned to the Psalms over and over again in my life.

- **In our Modern Christianity, we tend to think of them as beautiful works of sacred art...**
 - And in some sense, they are.
 - But in another sense, they are more accurately a collection of raw, intense, and at times even guttural expressions of the human experience.
 - In the psalms you find in abundance human beings who grapple with all-consuming fear, anxiety, anger, vengefulness, and despair.
 - Just as often, you find bravery, courage, confidence, mercy, and worship-filled hope.
- **The Psalms were the Hymn Book of Israel, the people of God – our ancestors in the faith.**
 - They were sung in national events of celebration and crisis, feast days, Sabbath, wartime, peace, and around dinner tables.
- **They were the Songs Jesus grew up singing.**

So, I find it spiritually appropriate to invite you into a deeper engagement with these living melodies...

- This coming Wednesday night I begin a bible study called “Lessons from the Psalms” where we will go deep into the histories, meanings, and intentions of this treasury of gifts.
- Psalm 1 is the gateway to the great hall of God’s ever-playing symphony...

**Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
² But his delight is in the Law of the Lord,
And on His Law he meditates day and night.
³ He will be like a tree planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season,
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.
⁴ The wicked are not so,
But they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
⁶ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.**

Psalm 1

“Like a Tree Planted by Streams of Water”

- For a year and a half, I’ve labored to draw the image in each of your hearts of a broken vessel, that God pours Himself into...
 - Filled to Overflow – The Word, Prayer, & Holy Spirit
 - I have often found myself dry – not going to the “pouring places” as often as I should...
- But this is a different metaphor...
 - Here I am planted...
 - Reminiscent another passage – a shadow of what we’re becoming...
 - **We have this prophetic painting...of a Tree? Or is a Spirit? Or is it Both...?**

Revelation 22:1-3

And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, **coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,** ² in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of fruit*, yielding its fruit every month; **and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

- **For Me, When I Read the Psalms...**
 - Revive, Restore, Rejuvenate, Renew, Regenerate...
 - But this water of life is meant for more...**“the healing of the nations...”**

When You Are Planted by the Water...

- **Your leaf does not wither...**
 - I find too often I feel Withered
 - Wilted, Weakened, Lessened, Dried Up, Fading or Wasting Away...
- **You Bear fruit...**
- **In whatever you do, you prosper...**
 - Prosper in What?
 - **Nourishment...**
 - **Healing...**
 - **Rest...**

“Like Chaff Which the Wind Blows Away...”

- The husks and shells of harvested grain...
- Refer to Dried Up debris of a plant, of a tree...

I couldn’t help but think of the California landscape...the dryness...the fires...

Dried Up Chaff, Debris...It’s Dangerous...

Instead of bringing nourishment and healing...it spreads disaster and destruction...

James 3:5-6

The tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell.