



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – February 15, 2024

The Lord be with you.

The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing. That's what Stephen Covey advises in his best selling book "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People". The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing. You know those words often come to my mind as I battle distractions and all those things that would cause me to lose sight of the main thing in life that that which matters most. And so I find myself often turning to a scripture passage in which the great king David, the Psalmist says he as he nails down for us. The main thing in life.

David in Psalm 27 verse four writes one thing, one thing I ask of the Lord that will I seek after to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Now, David writes these words not on some peaceful mountain retreat, wanting alone time with God. No, as David writes these words, David is surrounded by enemies on all sides. You can see it right there in Psalm 27. And at a time that David's foes might well absorb David's full attention. We find David wanting time with God. One thing I asked of the Lord that will I seek after notice God's part in this and David's part in this I ask of the Lord.

OK. That's, that's God's part what I'm looking to God for and then notice David's part that will I seek after you? See, David turns his prayer for that one thing. That main thing, he turns it into action. I mean, David's gonna do his part in order to get what he asked for. David says, that will I seek after and that is time with God.

Now, when David talks about living in the house of the Lord for all of his life, he is not talking about taking a sleeping bag and camping out in the temple. I mean, David is a man of responsibilities. David has duties to perform promises to keep whether for David living in the house of the Lord that expresses for him living in the continual awareness of God's presence and communion with Him.

It's, it's making time for God so that we might often stop and ask ourselves if we are making this one thing, the one thing in our lives, if we're keeping the main thing, the main thing, OK. Follow David's thought here. He wants to live in ongoing communion with God so that he might do two



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things he says to behold the beauty of the Lord and, and to inquire in his temple to behold the beauty of the Lord.

I don't think we often talk about the beauty of the Lord, but the word translated here is beauty is translated elsewhere in the Old Testament as favor kindness, graciousness, beauty. That's, that's the Lord. And David makes it his priority that which he does prior to anything else. He makes it his priority. His main thing to focus on the goodness, the graciousness, the favor of God. And David finds it beautiful energizing to focus on this one thing. And David says that it is his desire to inquire of God.

In other words, to learn more and more about God, his graciousness, his love, his wisdom, his compassion, time with God to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire of him to learn of him in his presence. And then David's next verse verse five of Psalm 27. It, it speaks of the importance of choosing the one thing he writes in verse five for the Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble. He will conceal me under the cover of a stint. He will set me high on a rock.

Now, here with these words, David is eluding to the sacred honor code of the ancient near east where in a time of trouble, one could flee to a king or to a chieftain's h house or tent for sanctuary and the king or chieftain would be honor bound to take you in and in fleeing to that king or chieftain to their house or tent, you would be protected and you would be provided for so that no enemy could harm you.

And David has learned by experience that going into the presence of God living in his continual presence and awareness and trust that God becomes for us, the sure place of protection and provision amidst the enemies, the trials and troubles of life and, and, and God longs for you and me to make this one thing the main thing, the one thing that we ask for to dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of our lives, to behold his beauty and to inquire of him, to learn of him and there in the Lord's presence, he will protect and he will provide.

And that's why the main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.