

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 11, 2020

That the Lord be with you.

Here in Holy Week, I've been doing quite a bit of thinking about the first Easter as we find it in the Gospel of Mark chapter 16 where Mary Magdalene and some other women, they come to the Garden Tomb, and they find it empty and an angel tells them that Jesus has been raised he's not here, go and tell his disciples and Peter but... But then in Verse 8, it says something that I've really had to chew on for a while as it says that they went out and fled from the tomb for terror and amazement. had seized them and they said Nothing to anyone for they were afraid they were afraid that first Easter their heads are swimming, they're stunned, they cannot make out what has happened and what it's all going to mean, and they are afraid. How about you this Easter, are you afraid?

Are you afraid about the coronavirus? Are you afraid about the economy, about your future about what's going to happen?

Well, I'm gonna look at a Psalm in which David tells us what he does when he is afraid.

And how David goes from fear to confidence, in Psalm 56, that is write one of the lowest points in David's life and certainly is one of the most dangerous as in the "superscript David tells us that he writes a Psalm when he was seized by the Philistines while running from King Saul's army. It's all there in Psalm 21 as David is running for his life from one army and he runs right into the arms of another army, the Philistines. We could say that David has jumped out of the frying pan right into the fire and David spans a large portion of Psalm 56, cataloging, his enemies.

I wanna read it in the PAT, just the first few verses of song 56 as David begins with the prayer in verse one, "Be gracious to me. Oh God, for people trample on me all day long foes oppressed me, my enemies trample on me all day long for many fight against me oh Most High when I am afraid I put my trust in you In God whose word I praise and god I trust, I am not afraid, but what can flesh do to me. I notice here how David goes from fear to trust, he goes from saying, When I am afraid to sing, I'm not afraid now, I want to, I need to know more about this now. The Hebrew word translated as to be afraid. It's the Hebrew word Ray and its basic meaning is actually to flow it has the idea that when you are really afraid, you feel your insides flow, that's the idea of the word that is most often translated as to be afraid.

Maybe you felt that sometimes you've been so afraid that you can feel it in your gut and the giant killer, feel it flowing in his stomach. It's not butterfly is the David is feeling in his stomach, it's a whole herd of elephants that are running and don't forget that this is David now who is afraid, this is David, who is a shepherd, boy, he killed a lion and a bear he

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killed a giant Goliath and he's been a successful general in Saul's army and so... So keep in mind that for David to say that he is afraid that means that he is facing big trouble. But notice here, that David says freely that he is afraid David is no stoic, he admits his real fear he's in a very dangerous situation, and David were not afraid, I think I'd say there was something wrong with him that David has some learned through some hard years, he has a learn just what to do when he's afraid.

Oh, Most High. When I am afraid I put my trust in you, David has learned to make fear a trigger for trust.

And frankly, I don't know if there's any need to trust what everything is going great in your life, for us to learn what it means to put our trust in God and for our trust to grow, there has to be a real deep sense of need.

I think the kind of need that many of us are feeling right now for David fear becomes the occasion for trust so that fear and faith actually blend. So don't ever say that you have no faith because you have some fear now, I love the Hebrew word that is translated as trust, it's the word batach, it's another Hebrew word that's a word picture. It literally means, and see this, it means to cling to or to hold fast, so picture a picture, a little child about to get a shot in the doctor's office as she is clinging to her mother, that's batach, David, when he's afraid, he clings to God, he holds tight to God.

You won't be surprised to learn that batach is one of David's favorite words. In fact, they would use it twice as much as the other Psalms, put together and batach then has a meaning of a sense of security and confidence for David as many times David will use this word to express his confidence and feeling of security as he puts his trust in God.

I think it's interesting that the word... batch is used today in modern Hebrew in Israel for the National Security Office it is for the nation of his from that. The word is also used for the security checks. When you get on an airplane in Telavi. David puts his trust in God, and David is confident he's secure. Listen to David almost high when I am afraid I put my trust in you In God whose word I praise in God. I trust, I am not afraid, what can flesh do to me When fears come and they will come, "we know where to turn. Here's what I'm learning from David in Psalm 56: about dangerous situations. Number one, "I acknowledge my fear. I think, sometimes in church as we get the idea that we're not supposed to be afraid, we're certainly not supposed to talk about our fears.

Number one, "I acknowledge my fear.

And then number two, the I think right thoughts. That the God is for me, he is my shield here is my protector, and then I reset my will to do God's will acknowledge my fear. I think right thoughts. I reset my will to do God's will, I just go ahead and do what God is calling me to do is fear is not going to stop me because I'm clinging to God the apostle Paul picks up on these very words of David. In Romans 8, 31, 32, where he says, "If God is for us, who is against us, "He who did not withhold His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, will He not with Him? Also give us everything else the cross demonstrates God's love for you, the cross proves, and God won't stop at anything to care for you.

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Christ, we do all of adore Thee and we do praise Thee forever. For on the Holy Cross
Thou has the world from sin, redeemed Christ. We do all adore the... And we do praise
Thee forever.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler on the pilgrim way. Thanks for listening. Sunday's coming.

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