MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE, KRYSTELE CHAVEZ

The Secret to Security Amidst Overwhelming Trouble

Psalm 34

Perpetual Praise is the Native Environment for Those Who Delight in Yahweh's Care

Psa. 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. 3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

A Heart Oriented Toward Yahweh Can Rest Assured in His Faithful Care

Anxiety	v.4 I <u>sought</u> the LORD	and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
Dishonor	v. 5 Those who <u>look to</u> <u>him</u>	are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.
Wicked opposition	v.6 This poor man <u>cried [to</u> <u>the LORD]</u>	and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. 8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
Privation	v.9 Oh, <u>fear the Lord</u> , you his saints	for those who fear him have no lack! 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

NOTES:

Those Who "Fear" Yahweh:

Psa. 34:11 *Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. 12 What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?*

1) Speak what is good and truthful

Psa. 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

2) Act to benefit and not to harm others

Psa. 34:14a Turn away from evil and do good;

3) Are aggressively peaceful

Psa. 34:14b seek peace and pursue it.

In the Midst of Trouble, Suffering and Grief, God-Fearers are Assured of...

1) ... Yahweh's specific attention.

Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

2) ... Yahweh's personal care and presence

Psalm 34:17 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

3) ... certain deliverance from their enemies.

Psalm 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous [one], but the LORD delivers him out of them all. 20 He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. 21 Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. 22 The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Review/Discuss/Apply:

1) How does David's instruction in verses 11-12 help you understand the "fear of the LORD"?

2) Personalize Psalm 34. How does this Psalm express your own experience of the Lord's personal care and presence in the midst of your trouble? How do Jesus's words in John 16:33 map onto Psalm 34?

3) Read 1 Peter 2:1-3 & 3:8-17. How does Peter apply Psalm 34 to followers of Jesus? Why do Peter (and David) give instruction for "fear of the Lord" for those who are enduring hardship?

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