

PASSION FOR THE LORD'S HOUSE!!

(Palm Sunday - 2018)

Scripture: Psalm 84:1-12.

Introduction: Palm Sunday is always associated with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem temple, and people shouting, Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. There was a clear yearning among the Jews for Messiah, who was supposed to free them from the grip of Roman Empire. But Jesus did not come to setup an earthly kingdom but heavenly kingdom. Jesus emphasized that people love God with all their hearts, and love one another genuinely. Our Lord Jesus loved His Father so much. The passion for His father's house shows that Jesus indeed loved His Father so much. The merchants had made this house of prayer a real market place.

John 2:14-17

14And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

15And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables;

16and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business."

17His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."

It became a trading business place rather than a house of prayer. The religious leaders encouraged that because they were getting rich from this booming business. But Jesus was extremely angry. He made a whip out of rope, and chased all the money changers. He toppled all the tables, and chased the animals out of the temple too. The disciples remembered this incident as a prophesy from the Old Testament. The zeal for thy house consumed me!

On this Palm Sunday, I want to bring this as our main topic and talk about it. Do you have zeal for the Lord's house? Do you love God as you should? Do you love His church? Are you passionate about the affairs of the church?

The Psalmist said, I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the house of the Lord! Are we really glad to be in the house of the Lord?

In Psalm 84, we can see this passion for the house of the Lord clearly! That passion comes out through various means.

First the Psalmist just marvels! How lovely are your dwelling places!

Psalm 84:1. 1How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts!

In order for God's house to be lovely, we don't need to build a lofty crystal cathedral. We don't need to aim for lofty stained windows and paintings! Our house can become a house of God also. When loving people gather together who love the Lord, it becomes a lovely dwelling place for the Lord. Where love is present, God is present. Where love is absent, God is not there! Wherever God's presence is there, it becomes not only holy, but lovely!

Second, that passion turns into thirst! Our soul thirsts for God!

Psalm 84:2.

*2My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD;
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

There is a yearning to stand in the presence of God! Our soul indeed thirsts for God. David really thirsted for God. As the deer pants for water, David's soul thirsted for God. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ also thirsted so much for His Father. This excessive thirst came after the abandonment of His Father on the cross. Only when the saint thirsts he gets filled. When His thirst is quenched by the Holy Spirit, there is a constant joy in that saint's heart which makes him sing constantly toward his God!

Third, A passionate saint covets certain things concerning God's temple.

*Psalm 84:3,4. 3The bird also has found a house,
And the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts,
My King and my God.
4How blessed are those who dwell in Your house!
They are ever praising You.*

The Psalmist did not covet to be the high priest or priest. He didn't covet to stand in the pulpit and preach. He didn't covet to sing or play music instruments to lead the congregation. He wanted to be just in the presence of the Lord with The Saints in the temple! The psalmist coveted about a bird that nested in the altar! He coveted also the blessings of those people who virtually sleep in the temple, and take care of it! He coveted their constant praising. The saints praises just for being alive, healthy, and being in the presence of the Lord! Now the passion for the house turned into covetousness! We must covet God and His kingdom and covet not the earthly things! Thou shall not covet Law is meant for prohibiting from seeking what other people have, and not about what God has to offer. God wants you to covet for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He wants you to covet for the fruits of the Holy Spirit. He wants you to covet for more prophesy, more faith, more love, more hope! Above all, covet and seek with all your heart our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and His bride, the church!

Fourth, the Psalmist points to our real source of strength! Our strength is in Christ alone!

*Psalm 84:5-7. 5How blessed is the man whose strength is in You,
In whose heart are the highways to Zion!
6Passing through the valley of Baca they make it a spring;
The early rain also covers it with blessings.
7They go from strength to strength,
Every one of them appears before God in Zion.*

Saints of God loves the Lord passionately and they trust in Him for everything. They are absolutely nothing without God. Their strength, wisdom, motivations come from God alone. They never think they are great in anything they do. They boast only in the Lord, and points to the source of their strength when they succeed. Their path which is their focal point is always toward God and His Kingdom, the heavenly Zion.

(Valley of Baca? "Valley of weeping! When the righteous pass through a time of suffering or calamity, they turn it into a time of refreshment. **The rain also fills the pools**; rather, the **early** rain (Joel 2:23) **covereth it with blessings**. The rain of God's grace mantles all the valley with a

luxuriant vegetation; in other words, the blessing of God rests on those who act as above described, and causes them ever to increase in righteousness and true holiness.” (Pulpit commentary))

They go from strength to strength and every one of them will appear before God in Zion! Even though they may walk in the valley of weeping, they shall not become weary and faint. Instead, their strength is renewed, and they take off like eagles! Their faith muscles become stronger and stronger, and they move from weakness to strength, and even much more strength. This passage matches well with Romans 1:17

Romans 1:17.

17For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

Our faith increases as we understand more and more that our righteousness comes from God alone. Our faith becomes stronger every day as we start seeing that our strength actually comes from God. The more we trust in Him, the more strength we get. As our faith level increases, our strength increases also.

Fifth, Our Father’s house is a house of prayer! It is not a market place, or gossiping place.

Psalm 84:8

*80 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
Give ear, O God of Jacob!*

We come to the Lord’s house to give thanks, and to offer our supplications.

Jesus was passionate about His Father’s house. But the religious leaders made it a den of thieves instead of House of Prayer! They made it into a mall of merchandise promotion. The house of the Lord should be a place for people to come and pray, spend quiet time of reflection, or praise and worship, or study of the Word. This is not a tennis court or volley ball court. This is not a chit chat place. Let us be zealous and turn it into God’s house of prayer. Our Lord will not tolerate any kind of commercialism, and fleshly activities. Let us make it Holy!

Sixth, The Lord is not only our strength, but our shield also!

Psalm 84:9

*9Behold our shield, O God,
And look upon the face of Your anointed.*

Our God is the ultimate protector from all evils. He is our fortress. He is our rock who hides us in the cleft of His rock. He constantly protects us, and shields us. Let us love Him, and abide under His wings. He will watch over us, and lead us. Let us passionately seek His face daily.

Seventh, It is a privilege and joy to be in the house of the Lord!

Psalm. 84:10.

*10For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

Time flies in the house of the Lord. A day in the house of the Lord is better than thousand outside of His house. It is indeed a privilege to be in the house of the Lord. Even if we have to stand at the threshold of door of the house of our Lord, that is much better dwelling than a big mansion of the wicked!

Finally, The Lord blesses from all angles!

Psalm 84:11;12.

11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield;

The LORD gives grace and glory;

No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

12 O LORD of hosts,

How blessed is the man who trusts in You!

He provides us the protection from evil, but also provides light unto our path through His Word so that we may not stumble in darkness. He gives so much grace through His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. He also honors us through the glory of His Son Jesus Christ.

Please listen to this Word carefully. He does not hold back any good thing from us! He is actually anxious to give everything He has! But only for those who walk uprightly. Are we responsible enough to receive them and use those talents for the glory of God, or we will receive, and just bury them? The people who trust in Him are indeed blessed! There is no doubt about it. How can we not love Him more than anything? How can we not be passionate about His work, His Kingdom, and His ministries, and His house, and His people? Let the zeal of God consume us all today!

Conclusion:

Psalm. 122:1.

I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

We should be rejoicing to come to the Lord to fellowship with His saints, and to worship Him with His saints. Let us enter His gates with thanksgiving and praises! Let us become passionate about His house.

1. His house is marvelous
2. His love is so marvelous, we thirst for Him.
3. Let us covet His house with zeal.
4. Because our strength is in Christ alone
5. His house is a house of prayer.
6. The Lord is our shield!
7. It is a privilege and joy to be in the house of the Lord.
8. The Lord is our keeper and He blesses us from all angles!

Let the Zeal for Him, and His house consume us!

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