

Psalm 8

I like Snoopy, the dog in the Charlie Brown cartoon series. One day, Snoopy was on top of his doghouse saying, "I can hear my heart beating." "I can hear my stomach growling." "I can hear my bones creaking." Then he complained, "My body is making so much noise that I can't sleep." Snoopy is getting old. Before it's too late, it is important to find an answer to David's question, "What is man that God is so concerned about us?" David's question is not only a question, but an answer and exciting exclamation about God's concern and love for all humanity.

"What is man that God is so concerned about us?" means that you are very special person created in God's own image. The world gives us answers about life. Some scientists and philosophers tell us that we are just a product here by accident, just like the random flight of a ball. Some of them say that we are just a product of our environment, like any animal, not more important than them. Where can we find the right answer about Life? The word of God in Psalm 8 gives us a clear picture of who we are, and everyone here today is included in this answer which is a great spiritual awakening moment. What am I, who am I in the sight of God? When David says in V. 4 that God is mindful of man, it means that you are very precious to God and God always think of you. You are very special to God: priceless and unique to God. Someone said that when he viewed the Mona Lisa painting in Paris, the price printed at the base of the painting said: "Priceless". The value was too much to measure. We are of too much value to God to measure. In the book of Genesis, in creation God breathed His very own breath into Adam to bring him life. Our life, too, springs from God's breath. We have a purpose to praise God and have fellowship with God and honor God with our lives.

As David started to praise the majesty of God, he realized this great truth, "God, You've made me just a little bit lower than yourself. You crowned me with glory and with honor. You've made me ruler over the works of your hands" Your true identity is a child of God and God's beloved one. The identity that makes you free is anchored in God beyond all human praise and blame. Our soul wants to keep us rooted in the ground of our own being, resisting the tendency of other faculties, like the intellect and the ego, to uproot us from who we are. The soul wants to tell us the truth about ourselves, our world.

All of us arrive on earth with souls in perfect form, in the image of God. But from the moment of birth onward the true self is assailed by deforming forces from without and within; by racism, sexism, economic injustice, and other social cancers by jealousy, resentment, self doubt, fear, and other demons of the inner life. We have to see what are the particular inner demons and social cancers that deform our soul. We must focus on our true identity and our true spiritual roots. You belong to God and it is as a child of God that you were sent into this world as a channel of God's mercy and grace to give life and pass these gifts along in the world. "What is man that God is so concerned about us?" is the powerful word that keeps us anchored in our true identity. The temptation always remains to disconnect us from that deep place where God dwells, and to let ourselves be drowned in the praise or blame of the world. I hope and pray that God is dwelling in the deepest place in you and is giving you a sense of safety. God loves us and we are precious to God. It is important, that we recognize first of all that humanity is created by God and that we all are children of God.

At this time, we have to think how much God loves you and considers you as a best friend and He is our savior. As David was considering the vastness of the Universe, he was also amazed that God had saved him, restored him, and befriended him when he was lonely and fearful. He said "What is man that God is so concerned about us?"

A store owner was tacking a sign above his door that read, "Puppies For Sale." Signs like that have a way of attracting small children and sure enough, a little boy appeared under the store owner's sign. "How much are you going to sell the puppies for?" he asked. The store owner replied, "Anywhere from \$30 to \$50." The little boy reached in his pocket and pulled out some change. "I have \$2.37," he said, "Can I please look at them?"

The store owner smiled and whistled, and out of the kennel came Lady, the puppies' mother, who ran down the aisle of his store followed by her five teeny, tiny balls of **fur**. One puppy was lagging considerably behind. Immediately the little boy singled out the lagging, limping puppy and said, "What's wrong with that little dog?" The store owner explained that the vet had examined the little puppy and had discovered it didn't have a hip socket. It would always limp. It would always be lame. The little boy became excited. "That is the little puppy that I want to buy."

The store owner said, "No, you don't want to buy that little dog. If you really want him, I'll just give him to you." The little boy got quite upset. He looked straight into the store owner's eyes, pointing his finger, and said, "I don't want you to just give him to me. That little dog is worth every bit as much as all the other dogs and I'll pay full price. In fact, I'll give you \$2.37 now, and 50 cents a month until I have him paid for." The store owner countered, "You really don't want to buy this little dog. He is never going to be able to run and jump and play with you like the other puppies." To this, the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace. He looked up at the store owner and softly replied, "Well, I don't run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands!"

When we don't think much of ourselves, when we think others don't think much of us either, and all seems lost, there is help, there is hope, and there is Salvation. There is real best friend.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" It is a time to think how much God loves you and cares and works for you. Jesus Christ came into this world to restore His real hope purpose and meaning in us. When the renowned theologian Karl Barth visited the University of Chicago, students and scholars crowded around him. At a press conference, one asked Dr. Barth "What is the most profound truth you have learned in your studies?" Without hesitation he replied, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

When you come to the communion table today, consider David's answer. "What is man, that God is mindful of him?" God's love is so powerful that it penetrates into our deepest desires. A desire for communion with God has been part of us since we were born. The pain of separation, which we all experienced at birth when we left the womb, and continue to experience now in many other ways, reveal to us this deep hunger and thirst to bridge this huge gap.

Psalm 42:1-2 "as a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."

Jesus said, "Come unto me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Sometimes our fear of abandonment and rejection is so intense that our search for communion is often replaced by a longing for concrete expressions of friendship or affection. We want to deep communion but we end up looking for letters, phone calls, gifts, and similar gestures.

Come in this communion table **with trust that your deepest longing in your heart will be fulfilled in Christ' s love. Come with excitement and a joyful heart saying,** "What is man that God is so concerned about me?" Realize anew that God truly loves you.

Jesus said, "Come unto me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."