

Rejoice in the Lord with Trembling (Psalm 2)

David Adams - 5/5/24

I. Introduction

- a. "Serve the Lord with fear And rejoice in Him with trembling." (**Psalm 2:11**)
- b. This is an interesting, challenging verse.
- c. We have been studying through Deuteronomy together. Talking about the fear of the Lord.
 - i. We see in Deuteronomy the mercy and kindness of God, as well as the importance of fearing Him, that this is a good thing.
 1. "Would they had such a heart in them so as to fear Me and guard My commandments all the time, that it might go well with them and their sons together." (**Deuteronomy 5:29**)
 - ii. **Questions:** How do we both fear God and *rejoice in Him* at the same time? What does this look like? How do we pass this on to our children/grandchildren as God desires and implores His people in **Deuteronomy 5**?

II. Psalm 2

- a. Read **Psalm 2:1-2**
 - i. Nations are raging and meditating on vain things.
 - ii. God has a message for them in this Psalm.
- b. Read **Psalm 2:4-5**
 - i. The Father and the Son are sitting in heaven.
 - ii. They will "mock them" and speak "in wrath" and "in anger"
 - iii. Who are they mocking and speaking to?
 1. The people who are raging and meditating on vain things. (Disobeying God.)
 - iv. Do we view the Father and the Son in this way?
- c. Read **Psalm 2:6-9**

- i. The Son will (upon His return) rule and possess the nations as King with an iron staff.
- ii. The Son will shatter the raging, disobedient nations like a potter's vessel.

1. Dropping a plate or mug that shatters. It's quite complete!

d. Read **Psalm 2:10-12**

- i. Hear the psalmist reasoning with the nations/kings.
- ii. Serve the Lord with fear, rejoice in Him with trembling.
- iii. Lay hold of His instructions.
- iv. His fury is coming for the disobedient. But for those who trust (and obey Him), there is a blessing.

e. **Question:** How do we rejoice in the One we fear?

- i. Examples that help me:

1. Electricity

- a. Good, useful, or can be very scary.
- b. Sory of Max's house, pulling out the frig. Morgan's healthy fear.
- c. Fear protects!

2. Fire

- a. Cooks, warms, is good.
- b. Handled badly, destructive force.
- c. c. Healthy fear is very good! It keeps us from the bad, so we can enjoy fire in good ways.

3. Fear of God

- a. Fear protects us from sin, from going outside the boundaries that God intends, which will end with disasterous (and scary) consequences. Fear keeps us alive spiritually.

- i. Money (good, serve others; or covetousness, greed, worry)
- ii. Sex (a gift in marriage; destruction outside)
- iii. Work (provide, example of righteous/spiritual witness; or hypocrisy, an idol)

III. Psalm 109/110

- a. vs. 1-4 – speaks of the Son at the right hand of God, begotten of the Father before the morning star
- b. vs. 5-7 – speaks of the coming day of His wrath, *crushing the heads of many on earth and filling the nations with dead bodies.*
 - i. This is quite an image of the Son of God/Jesus.
 - ii. Also speaks of the brightness of the saints. (radiant, a light to the nations/world)

IV. Jesus

- a. John lays his head on Jesus' bosom (when Jesus says someone is going to betray Him). (**John 13:25**)
- b. "As the Father loved me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (**John 15:9-11**)

V. New Testament

- a. Read **Hebrews 12:18-29**
 - i. Fear of God being preached to the Hebrew Christians!
 - ii. Our God is a consuming fire.
- b. Read **Hebrews 13:1-6**
 - i. Given we have a "godly fear", we are to love others!
 - ii. Read **Philippians 4:4-7**

1. Consider: this same God “who is a consuming fire” is the same one that Paul says
 - a. We are to rejoice always
 - b. Have a spirit of gentleness
 - c. Be anxious for nothing
 - d. Be transformed with the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, guarding our hearts and minds.
2. Yet Paul also says
 - a. “... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling....” (**Philippians 2:12**)
 - b. Because He will return and “every knee will bow” to Him, on heaven and earth.

c. Read **Colossians 3:1-14**

- i. A reference to **Psalm 109/110**, Jesus sitting at the right hand of God, to return with wrath and fury (for His enemies) and with blessings for His followers.
- ii. For His followers, our lives are “hidden with Christ”, and we will “appear with Him in glory”.
- iii. So, the result (vs. 8-11), we put off sin and put on love and the fruits of the spirit (vs. 12-14)

VI. Practicals in Rejoicing in God with Trembling

- a. Fearing God keeps us from sin.
 - i. Me: lust, covetousness, fear of men
 - ii. I need the fear of God, even after 38 years as a Christian!
- b. Joy and love should characterize us as Christians.
 - i. Love is the distinguishing mark of a Christian.
 - ii. Joy should fill our hearts as we await Jesus’ return to bring eternal salvation. All challenges and struggles pail to this blessing and hope we have!

iii. Many Christians struggle with believing God really loves them and will save them.

1. Condemned heart?
2. If walking in the light (dealing with sin you are aware of) and loving others, over time, God can help you with the confidence and hope of salvation that brings love, joy, and security.
3. He is not looking for perfection! But humility, brokenness, obedience.
4. He wants us to have this joy and security that is real.

c. How we raise our children

- i. Our challenge as parents: help them understand both the fear and love of God, and how these work together.
- ii. It starts with us working on our own understanding. The more you get it, the more equipped you will be to pass it on.
 1. And you don't have to be perfect!
 2. It is important but will be explained and modeled differently for children of different ages.
- iii. The Spirit will lead you in the journey of parenting. Hold on to the principles: fear of God and love of God – teaching both with consistency. For young children:
 1. Obedience – things go well
 2. Disobedience – things don't go well.

iv. **Lessons I learned**

1. Never discipline in sinful anger (in your anger, do not sin); take a deep breath, take a walk, and make sure you are in a good spot. (This applies to young, medium, and older children!)
2. Be united with your spouse.
3. Always end with reconciliation, when the discipline is over.
4. Be creative; allow the Spirit to lead.

- a. We used the rod, plus other ways to reach the heart, especially as our kids grew older.

d. Our evangelism

i. Read **Matthew 10:27-31**

1. The context: speaking the truth to others who don't want to hear it!
2. Don't fear men (and the consequences they can bring); fear God (and the consequences He can bring).
3. Love people enough to do this, so they can be saved from God's wrath and live in Christ with all His blessings.
4. Read **Acts 2**, quoting **Psalm 2**.
 - a. Consider how the message included the fear of God, resulted in repentance, and the people received forgiveness, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and were filled with joy and love.