



still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 133

[Worship]

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

### Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Change comes to two families when faith allows one family member to see their families' story in the larger story of God's saving encounters with humanity. Joseph forgives the vicious abuse of his brothers and provides his entire family the very bounty foreseen in his inspired dreaming. Jesus expands his mission to the people of Israel to include Gentiles coming in faith. The Canaanite girl's mother also sees the bigger story, faithfully pleading to the "son of David" (Matthew 15.22) to heal her daughter of a demon.

"Kindred living together in unity" in Psalm 133 are a precious commodity, like the oil on the beard of Aaron. The larger story: "the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore" (Psalm 133:3).

In Romans 11, Paul reminds his readers of his roots in the tribe of Benjamin and of Israel's ongoing acceptance by a compassionate God.

The fragmentation of society into the vested, guarded interests of nuclear families undercuts both those families and a social order yearning for fuller life and deeper harmony. A biblical ethic sees the biological family within the human family, in turn within the generational continuity of life on earth. It is a story of rising or falling together, living together as brothers and sisters, as Dr. King said, or dying together as fools.

*Robert Roth*



### [The Scripture] Romans 11.1-2, 29-32

1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

29 ...For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. 32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.