



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 48

[Worship]

1 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. His holy mountain, 2 beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. 3 Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defense. 4 Then the kings assembled, they came on together. 5 As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic, they took to flight; 6 trembling took hold of them there, pains as of a woman in labor, 7 as when an east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish. 8 As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God establishes forever. Selah

9 We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. 10 Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with victory. 11 Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments. 12 Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers, 13 consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation 14 that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will be our guide forever.

Consider:

[Words]

What gives us security? This is the challenge of our readings today. Samuel points us to a king who, like all other kings, looks for political and military security, exemplified here by the building of a fortress (2 Samuel 5:9-10). The psalmist draws attention to the security of the city, inviting people to reflect on its strength. However, the psalm is not an adoring song of praise to the city, but rather to God, who in time of danger has provided the only true security when enemies have threatened.

Those with the eyes of spiritual discernment are bidden to reflect on God's faithful love, because "your right hand is full

of saving justice" (Psalm 48:10-11). God does not politick like kings and presidents; God is above all the might of citadels and armies, and alone ensures future generations as "our God forever and ever" (Psalm 48:14).

Jesus, David's descendant, is apparently without security. In his home village, he is known simply as the carpenter. People are hostile to his liberating acts. Facing the rejection of the crowd, he returns to his new family, the community of his disciples. He tells them that they too have no securities—no food, money, baggage, or clothes. But they do have authority over the destructive spirits that oppress and threaten liberation (Mark 6:8).

Reflection and Action

Where does your security lie? When have you experienced God's power at full strength in weakness? Where have you been made unwelcome because of your faith in God's liberating power? How have you dealt with that?

[Scripture]

2 Corinthians 12.2-10

2 I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. 3 And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—4 was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. 5 On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. 6 But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, 7 even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. 12:8 Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, 9 but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Also read, **Mark 6.1-13**