

For Such a Time as This A Daily Devotional Thursday, August 1, 2024

From Psalm 30:

To you, O Lord, I cried,
and to the Lord I made supplication:
“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!”
You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.



This week has been seemingly devoted to the concept of joy. The Bible has much to say about human joy and the joy that God takes in human life and activity. Above is a portion of a psalm that highlights the turning from mourning or anxiety toward joy. The psalmist is convinced that such a turn comes not from his experience alone, but the direct realization that God is with him. Sometimes it is the simplest joys of life that hold the greatest effect upon us.

Karl Barth has much to say about this as well:

Perhaps it is as well to draw specific attention to the banal truth that the will for joy cannot be guided by the quantity of its possible causes and objects but must be a readiness for the small and smallest joys. For those who do not honor the small joys are not worthy of the great, and it may well be that in a given case a very little joy which we do not miss (or bestow upon another) is at the moment by far the highest possible fulfillment.

Barth continues elsewhere:

Those who seek true joy are not tied to certain modes of joy. They need not expect and seek it always along the same lines. They are capable of manifold joys. They know the great freedom of life itself, which allows its fulfillments to shine through in different ways. Hence, they are simply grateful for what comes and for the way in which it comes.

May the same be true for all of us!

Prayer for the Day: (From the *Worshipbook*)

God our Father: you made the world for sane and cheerful pleasures. Show us how to live free from false restraint or the terror of aimless craving, so that we may enjoy good times together, like guiltless children who play within the safety of your love, known in Jesus Christ, who set us free for joy. Amen.

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