

The NEXT Season: One Day In Your Court

¹⁻² What a beautiful home, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies!
I've always longed to live in a place like this,
Always dreamed of a room in your house,
where I could sing for joy to God-alive!

³⁻⁴ Birds find nooks and crannies in your house,
sparrows and swallows make nests there.
They lay their eggs and raise their young,
singing their songs in the place where we worship.
GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies! King! God!
How blessed they are to live and sing there!

⁵⁻⁷ And how blessed all those in whom you live,
whose lives become roads you travel;
They wind through lonesome valleys, come upon brooks,
discover cool springs and pools brimming with rain!
God-traveled, these roads curve up the mountain, and
at the last turn—Zion! God in full view!

⁸⁻⁹ GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, listen:
O God of Jacob, open your ears—I'm praying!
Look at our shields, glistening in the sun,
our faces, shining with your gracious anointing.

¹⁰⁻¹² One day spent in your house, this beautiful place of worship,
beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches.
I'd rather scrub floors in the house of my God
than be honored as a guest in the palace of sin.
All sunshine and sovereign is GOD,
generous in gifts and glory.
He doesn't scrimp with his traveling companions.
It's smooth sailing all the way with GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies.

Psalm 84 – The Message

INTRODUCTION

Yay! It's Easter and a long weekend. Whilst we are very pumped it is the favorite long weekend for all busy people, as Christians, it means a lot to us than just an Easter long weekend. Easter period is the celebration of the Lord Jesus – His victory over death, and His Lordship over our world. It is also the celebration of our salvation, our new life and the reason we have this amazing relationship with our God. The beautiful song, "...Halleluyah for all You've done" now makes more sense to us in this season than ever before. Looking from that perspective, there is no better place I'd rather be than in God's house this season.

Think about the Psalmist's perspective of God's house, (God's presence) – "One day spent in your house, this beautiful place of worship, beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches."

He talked about Greek Island beaches – who wouldn't love the most craved dream holiday in one of the most prestigious destination beaches in the world? In our world today, we'd rather prefer to spend even 1 day at the Hawaii Island beaches, than stay a day in God's house. Our world has become materials motivated and self-endearing. But why would the Psalmist's preference be God's house as opposed to those lovely beaches?

Ice- breaker: Think about your dream destination and holiday plans and share with the group.

Q: From the Psalmist's desire to spend quality time with God, how does it challenge your idea of a dream holiday?

Here David is telling us his experience comparing spending time with God to being on dream island. As a king, he obviously had experienced both, and we are blessed to be given an insight about the values each holds. This is not to say dream island is a wrong place, but God's presence beats it a thousand times over.

Read Psalm 27:4

Discussion: What does it mean to be in God's presence?

(Leader's tips: Take note of individual points and reflect on two of them. Check with your unit members if they'd accept God's fondness the same way).

Q: What are the advantages of being in God's presence? Read Psalm 27:1-5

In God's presence there is full of Joy, security, sanity, love, peace, righteousness, forgiveness, etc.

Reflection:

"I'd rather scrub floors in the house of my God
than be honored as a guest in the palace of sin."

Often we feel cleaning is a base job. Some people hire cleaners, or leave the job for others who may be considered less important. King David's perspective challenges us to think differently. This does not only apply to cleaning, but to those things that we hardly take notice of, yet expects to be done. Ordinarily, it is easier to desire to be honoured as kings, or with high positions, rather than being found to do those little things. Think about the irony of the "floor scrubbing king;" that is challenging.

PRAYER POINT –

Reflection & Prayer

- Pray about the our friends, family and neighbours coming to know Jesus this season.
- Pray for the leadership of The TransEdge Church and the plans to move to the next level.
- Pray for the life-link units and God's influence in our meetings.