

Psalm 16

The Resurrected Man

We have, in this Psalm, the portrait of a heart – a heart that is confident, secure and filled with joy (v8-9).

- But whose heart is portrayed?
 - It was written by David, but the New Testament tells us it isn't really a portrait of David's heart – see Acts 2:22-32
 - David knowingly spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, of Jesus. In Psalm 16 we see Jesus and have his heart described for us.
 - But this isn't merely nice for us to know. Since God is in the process of forming his people into the likeness of Jesus, this is also a portrait of what the Lord is turning the heart of the believer into.
- We will see 2 characteristics of this heart that lead to confidence and joy...

1. Total Dependence on the Lord

Jesus depended on His Father for:

- **Safety v1 and v8** – when danger came Jesus' heart turned to the Lord
 - How could he face the 2 demon possessed men? Or a life-threatening storm at sea? How could he stay calm when people were trying to take his life?
 - His security was not in his power, his wisdom or his status, he took refuge in his Father.
 - v8 the image could be of someone standing close by in court or on a battle field – whatever accusations come or arrows are fired there is safety if the Lord is by your side.
 - There are many things we do to be safe: seatbelts, locking doors, applying hand sanitiser and keeping distance. They are wise things to do, but if they become our refuge we will become obsessed about them.
 - As the Lord shapes your heart to be like Jesus, what do you need to stop looking to as your refuge?
- **Provision v2** – God is the giver of all good things
 - Also v6 – the boundary lines were the borders of someone's property.
 - Jesus looked to his Father to provide – the devil tempted Jesus to be self-sufficient (command the stones to become bread) and to look to the devil himself for splendour and majesty, but Jesus refused and here we see his heart – God alone is the giver of good things.
 - Consider the full meaning of that verse – as you look at your life so far can you see good things? They must have come from the Lord.
 - And if all good comes from the Lord what difference will that make to how we live today and as we look ahead?
- **Guidance v7** – the Lord gives instruction
 - We see in Jesus' life that he depended on God's word.
 - When tempted he quoted the Bible, when dying he quoted the Bible
 - He spoke only what the Father gave him to speak (John 12:49).
 - We tend to think that maturity in the faith shouldn't need counsel, but Jesus, the Son of God, depended on his Father for it.
- **Resurrection v9-10**
 - Jesus knew he was heading to death – he was fully aware of the agony that he would go through. How did he face it? V10...

- Since Jesus died and rose to life again, through faith in him we too will be raised to life, we too can have confidence in the face of death.
- If we lack that confidence in the face of death we look back in time to the empty tomb and reason – if God raised Jesus he can raise me.

Here is Jesus' heart of total dependence on His father. Given what we have seen, what do you want to thank God for and what do you want to ask Him for?

2. Total Devotion to the Lord

We see in this Psalm Jesus' heart of total devotion to His father, which is:

- **Personal v2** – You are my Lord – this is personal, and it is submission to the Lord
 - Jesus submitted himself fully to his Father in total, willing obedience.
 - This needs to be our heart too – indeed this is essential to be a Christian to say 'you are **my** Lord'.
- **Spills over into joy in God's people v3** – he loves those who also love the Lord
 - Notice here – Jesus loves believers, indeed, he delights in them
 - If you are one of God's people have you taken in that that is how Jesus feels about you?
 - And the Lord will also turn our hearts towards His people, that we would also delight in them.
- **Uncompromising v4** – Here we see a heart that won't compromise
 - It is a damaging thing to run after other gods – chasing after wealth or pleasure or approval. It feels liberating but it is like running in a minefield.
 - He Won't join in with pagan rituals and won't take the name of false gods on his lips.
 - Jesus' heart is rightly jealous for the Lord and he distances himself from idols.
 - So too in our hearts he is shaping us to be so devoted to Him that we turn away from the idols around us.
- **A Choice v8** – He fixes his eyes always on the Lord
 - Jesus chose to spend time with his Father in prayer, he listened to his Father and spoke about his Father.
 - We too are not to be diverted but to keep our eyes on the Lord
- **A Great Delight v11**
 - Jesus knew that real joy, real pleasure is to be found in the presence of His Father.
 - And through his death he opened the way for us to enter God's presence too.
 - Have you started to taste and see that the Lord is good?
 - We may have started to experience this now, but our delight in the Lord will only increase and what a description of the life to come at the end of v11.

Again, take a moment to pray prayers of devotion to the Lord maybe using some of the verses listed above.