

2 Samuel 7:1-14A
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 21st, 2024

Our True Home

Let's pray,
As we gather together today,
Help us to slow down
So that we may hear you
Help us not forget
That we may feel at home
In your presence, with your Son
Jesus Christ and your Holy Spirit.
Now and for ever, Amen.

“He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.”

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit...

Let me start by giving a little background of the first reading today. It mentions a house of cedar that King David comfortably resides in. The Lord asks Nathan to deliver a message to David asking him if he will build him a house as he did not have a house built in his Name during the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Remember The Ark of the Covenant? It was built by the Israelites when they were wandering the desert. They were given explicit instructions and they were to be followed to a 'T'. The Ark was built to hold the 10 commandments tablets inscribed by the finger of God Moses received from the Lord and to his people, it represented God himself and it (or shall I say He) was kept in a tent and tabernacle travelling from settlement to settlement in the many years in the desert. He didn't have a home and despite this, he remained with the Israelites every step of the way. The tent acted as the house of the Lord and offerings were presented to the Lord for their transgressions within this tent, it was called the Tent of Meeting. Just like our churches built today it acted as the Lord's house. It did make a lot of sense as they were wandering, but they weren't really wandering as they were being guided night and day, but that is a story for another day.

I want to now talk to you about those without a home in our world today. Yes, there were those in the past without homes just as there are today. We have those who

become orphaned, little children who were left by their parents, but that is not the only way a child is orphaned, there are many ways.. In the case of Moses, (which appears to be orphaned when the Pharaoh's daughter found him) You see, his mother tried to hide him from the Egyptians who had orders by the Pharaoh to kill newborns in an attempt to control the growing population of the Israelites. He was obviously acting out of fear.

In today's world Orphanages were built for the sole purpose to provide shelter for those that were forsaken or for some reason no longer had parents. There are also those that lost their homes due to unfortunate circumstances or poor judgment in their decisions they made, regardless of the reason they had found themselves without a home to live in. I'm sure your heart goes out to these people young or old, forsaken or ill-fated, mine sure does and so did the Pharaoh's daughter when she found Moses, "She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying and she felt sorry for him." Exodus 2: 5-6. Luckily the slave girl found his mother and the Pharaoh's daughter paid her to nurse the child until he was older. Then she took him to be her child in Egypt. Her heart went out to him and she gave him a home. Yes, she took him in as her own child. A beautiful and grand act of compassion. I'd like to say Compassion is like a door from and to love, once it opens love comes through and fills the room.

The Lord was trying to show David through the prophet Nathan a bigger picture. I'm sure most of you have heard the saying "Home is where the Heart is". Love is in every room in every home because families reside there and the members of the family love each other and show it, well, most of the time anyways. But when it comes down to it they love each other unconditionally just like our Lord loves us unconditionally. We are his children and he chose us because he loves us. He loves us so very much and he took us in, just like the Pharaoh's daughter took Moses in. His compassion knows no bounds and it is our compassion too, as it resides in every heart.

Each and everyone one of us are loved, chosen and valued and this is what a home is all about. A home is where love grows and flourishes into beautiful things, such as kindness, goodness, mercy, peace and joy. Yes, these are the traits of our loving God, In today Psalm it says, "He will say to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'" Psalm 89: 26. He is our Father in heaven just like the Father and mother in a home. Remember that saying? "There is no place like Home" and that is so true there really is no place like it because it is where we truly belong.

I'd like to ask, has there ever been a time in your life you have felt lost and/or alone? I'm sure we all have, it is an empty feeling that feels like all of what we should be is

missing. What I mean here is that when we don't feel loved, nothing can replace it, not money, or possessions or anything. The world can not give us what our Father can, it is his peace, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you" John 14:27. When we give our lives to him, we have his Peace, his love in our hearts, and this love becomes our home. We include all those things in our life that are in our home. Just as love becomes our home, He becomes our home, especially when we feel he isn't. Does that make sense? Not exactly, I know. But I assure you we are all part of his family, his sons and daughters we are.

Lets go back to what I was saying earlier about a house for the Lord. "And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; (he will protect us) and evildoers shall afflict them no more as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies (rest in his House) Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house." 2 Samuel 7: 10-11. The Lord's house is the church we know today as well as our hearts. He will watch over as we sleep and is there when we wake. We sup with him every day and he feeds us with peace and love and when his joy overflows within then we shine with the wonderment of his righteousness. We are his family in his house where we belong, where we are Loved. Do you feel his love? That emptiness you may have once felt, is now filled? I surely do and I am so very grateful for what he does and has done in our lives.

When he sent his Son to die for us, we were adopted as his children, you and me to live with him in his House. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3: 16. Everlasting life! Beyond the walls of the earth, we will be with Him for eternity and have everlasting life!. Let us rejoice in the Lord and know that by his love through Jesus Christ we are saved!

It was his plan all along, we are the Gentiles as it is written and we were separate from the Israelites, the Jews of yesterday and of today. He has written, "So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off (the Gentiles) and peace to those who were near (the Jews); for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone." Ephesians 2: 17-20. In one Spirit! Citizens with the saints! Members of the Household of God! This is truly a blessing and a privilege that our Lord bestowed us and he brought all of us together

under one roof! Let us make him content and show others the love that he has shown us, the forgiveness he has shown us and the compassion he has shown us in the name of his son Jesus Christ with the guidance of his Holy Spirit, to be part of his eternal family. “In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.” He is in our hearts and he is our home, we belong to him where we dwell in his love, part of his family, together in his House forever. Amen.