

Sermon Weekly Devotions

PSALMS 46, 47, 48

780

5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.
6 The heathen raged; the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.
7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge: Selah.
8 Come, behold the works of the LORD: what desolations he hath

46:5
Deut. 33:14
Isa. 12:6
Ezek. 43:7, 9
Hos. 11:5
Joel 2:27
Zeph. 3:15
Zech. 25:10, 11
Ps. 46:5
46:6
Josh. 24:24
46:7
Num. 14:9
2 Chron. 13:12
46:8
Ps. 46:5
46:9
Isa. 24:24
Ps. 76:3

the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.
8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.
9 The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.
Greatness of the Lord

781

PSALMS 48, 49, 50

of thy judgments.
12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.
13 Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following.
14 For this God is our God forever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.
Trust Not in Riches

48:14
Isa. 58:11
49:2
Ps. 62:9
49:4
Ps. 78:2
Matt. 13:35
49:5
Ps. 38:4
49:6
Job 31:24, 25
Ps. 52:7
52:10
Mark 10:24
1 Tim. 6:17
49:7
Matt. 16:26
49:8
Job 36:18, 19

after their own names.
12 Nevertheless man being in honor abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.
13 This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.
14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning: and

No Fear of Failure

Day 1: God reveals Jesus' glory to reassure fearful disciples.

The mountain scene shows that when God exposes who Jesus truly is, human fear and failure are met by revelation, not rejection. Even ordinary, broken followers are invited up to see Jesus in his glory so their trembling can be replaced with trust in who he is and what he will do. That revelation doesn't leave them the same; it points them to the cross and the promise that God is at work even through failure. [46:56]

Matthew 17:1-9 (ESV)

After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Reflection: When you feel overwhelmed by your smallness before God, what single truth about Jesus' identity can you memorize and speak to yourself this week to steady your heart when fear rises?

Day 2: Approach God's throne boldly for mercy and help.

God invites the weary and failing to draw near with confidence, not to receive condemnation but mercy and grace in the moment of need. This is not a call to hide failures but to bring them into the presence of a Savior who offers help, healing, and renewed strength. The throne of grace is the place where fear gives way to mercy and courage for the next step. [[58:46](#)]

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Reflection: Name one pressing need or shame you carry right now; will you set aside a specific time and place this week to bring it before God's throne of grace, and what will you say when you do?

Day 3: Acknowledging sin opens the way to forgiveness.

Confession is not a ritual of defeat but the honest work that exposes sin so forgiveness can be given and fear of God can become reverent trust. When sin is named, the way is opened to receive God's forgiveness and to be guided back into peace and trust. The liturgical words remind that if God marked every sin we could not stand, but in mercy forgiveness is found. [[01:00:22](#)]

Psalms 130:3-4 (ESV)

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Reflection: What is one specific habit, word, or action you will bring to confession this week, and who will you ask to hold you accountable after you have confessed it?

Day 4: Jesus comes into our mess to touch us.

The God who is glorious does not remain distant; he stoops into the muck and mire of human life to touch, lift, and say "do not be afraid." That touch changes the disciples' terror into life, showing that divine power and tender presence go together. Christmas proclaims Emmanuel — God with us — who enters suffering and heals through his wounds. [[53:26](#)]

Isaiah 53:4-5 (ESV)

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Reflection: Who in your life is living in muck and mire right now (name a person or situation), and what is one concrete, compassionate step you will take this week to "get down" with them and point them to Jesus' touch?

Day 5: Called to carry Christ's name despite failures.

Followers are given Jesus' name to carry into a broken world, not because of their perfection but because of his mercy working through imperfect hands. Failure does not disqualify one from mission; rather, failures often return the heart to the cross and make witness more genuine. Christians are sent to bring good news into messy lives, trusting that Jesus goes with them even when they stumble. [[56:21](#)]

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Reflection: What is one specific, bold step you will take this week to share Jesus' name with someone despite fear of failure — name the person, the exact words or gesture you'll use, and when you'll do it?