

Fil-Am Community Church
Pastor David Bennett
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Taste and see that the Lord is Good!

Good evening Fil-Am, thank you for joining us this weekend, this evening I will be addressing the topic of tasting to see that the Lord is good! Based on the Theme Come and fill yourself at the Lords table.

As we say let us get into the word of God more importantly let us get the word of God into you!

Psalm 34:8 (NASB), *“O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”*

We say it all the time, God is good – all the time God is good.

But do we really believe that or is just one of those sayings that we all just say without giving it a lot of thought?

We are going to be looking into Psalms Proverbs and many other books to see what the Word of God says

Now the book of Psalms is the Book of Prayers and Praise unto our LORD it is in this book that is considered the ancient Hymnal for when we go to the book of Psalms we can find every kind of prayer imaginable

- ✓ Exuberant praises
- ✓ cries for help,
- ✓ spontaneous songs of thanksgiving and
- ✓ carefully constructed statements of the DIVINE truth,
- ✓ many expressions of trust,
- ✓ pleas for justice but there is also
- ✓ national laments and
- ✓ Individual confessions.

Psalms can soothe the very state of your soul whether it is sorrow, doubt, joy, anger, gratitude, guilt or wonder.

Today’s message is TASTE and see that the Lord is good, come and fill yourself from his table.

Proverbs 24:13 “My son, eat thou honey, for it is good; and the droppings of the honeycomb, which are sweet to thy taste.”

Psalms 119:103 “How sweet are they words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

Proverbs 24:13-14 “My Child, eat honey for it is good, and the honeycomb is sweet to the taste, in the same way wisdom is sweet to your soul.”

Prior to us fully understanding the meaning of David’s words in Psalms 34 let us first look into his life at the time he wrote Psalms 34.

Allow me to set the picture which begins in **1 Samuel 18-26**.

Jonathan (King Saul’s son) and David became best friends.

Saul appointed David as a high army official where after a war there was a celebration.

David was highly successful because God’s hands was upon him.

Saul plotted to kill David even after David married his daughter.

Jonathan intercedes on David’s behalf and converses with his father the king where Saul stated he would not attempt to kill David.

After three days of David not appearing to the dinner table, King Saul and Jonathan got into a conversation.

Jonathan questioned his father as to why he desired to kill David.

The king became angry and hurled a spear at his own son.

Jonathan eyes open for he now realized that all David said to him about his father was true.

He sought refuge with Achish, the King of Gath (also known as Abimelech, the priest).

Saints hang in there I know its long but I am going somewhere I promise.

Just when you think things can’t get any worst, something else surfaces.

Someone recognized David; heard Abimelech and David’s conversation then informed Saul.

Abimelech sent David away where he hid in the Cave.

Later, Saul sent for Abimelech and his family and ordered their death.

David doesn't become angry with God but rather he reveals his love for Him and writes Psalm 34.

Psalm 34:8, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him"

This is our theme verse for this evening.

What about you?

What about us? How would we respond to similar situations?

Regardless of what you may be going through, are you thankful to God that you'll encourage others to taste Him for themselves?

David understood that Jehovah, (the Lord) was his provider, (Jehovah Jireh) protector, and deliverer.

He understood this because David had personal experience (taste) and witness (see) to the goodness of God.

Regardless to what he encounter, David reflected on God's undying love towards him.

Taste Jesus for yourself and see (experience) His bountiful goodness for yourself!

Has anybody here ever tasted the goodness of Jesus?

And when you reverently come to God and obey His Word, God will watch over you and supply your needs.

Why not give God a try?

"Taste and see that the Lord is good."

The latter part of verse 8 states, "*Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.*"

This word 'refuge' means a place of safety, a safe-haven.

The storms may form and the thieves may break in but the one who takes refuge in God will see (taste) His goodness, His peace.

In the midst of the storms, while everything around you seems to be falling apart.

It is easy to say God is good all the time, when life is OK but how about when you're getting the crap beat out of you? When the walls are closing in on you?

Why is it so essential to taste God?

That's what we are going to deal with for the next 45 minutes.

The first point I would like to discuss today is...

1. God tests our heart in our hurts.

- ✓ Do we believe and trust God even in the **midst** of pain and suffering?
- ✓ Do we believe in the promises of God even when everything looks **impossible**?
- ✓ Do we trust in God even when we **do not understand** His ways in our lives?

Our trials can be a test of our faith.

Deuteronomy 8:2 *“Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.”*

Every trial the Israelites went through from the Red Sea to the Promised Land was a test of their faith; God was testing their heart whether they would be faithful to him.

We know the test Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego went through. When King Nebuchadnezzar asked the people to fall down and worship the golden image he made.

Daniel 3:13-18 (NASB)

¹³ *“Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?”*

¹⁶ “Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. ¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

As a result, they were bound and cast into the furnace that was made seven times hotter. As the king and people were watching, there was a fourth person in the fire.

See what the King said: [Daniel 3:25-27 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁵ “He said, “Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!”
²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire. ²⁷ The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king’s high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them.”

God tested them and they proved to be faithful. Eventually, God promoted them.

[Daniel 3:30 \(NASB\)](#), “Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.”

When we are going through a hurt, God is right there testing our heart, but there is always a promotion when trust in God. All those of who are going through trials, understand God is with you and a promotion is on your way.

The first point we discussed was God tests our hearts in our hurts the second point is...

2. God directs us in our hurts.

Unaware to us, God is directing us when we are going through a hard phase in life.

In 1 Kings 17, after telling the super prophesy of his life to King Ahab, Elijah was led by God to hide in Kerith Ravine.

God directed the ravens to bring him bread and meat in the morning and evening; he also drank from the brook. When the whole country was in famine and drought, God's servant was amply supplied.

But sometime later the brook dried up because there was no rain in the land. The ravens stopped bringing food. Oh! All of a sudden Elijah is in a great problem.

- ✓ No job,
- ✓ No ministry,
- ✓ No food,
- ✓ And now no water.

Can you imagine the thoughts that would have gone in Elijah's mind? God, you sent me here and now and now all I see is a dry stream and no food.

I could imagine that he would have felt like giving up. Elijah would have felt that was the end of the road for him.

God sent Elijah to Zarephath and provided a widow to take care of him.

When God dried the brook, God had already prepared everything needed for him at Zarephath.

God was directing Elijah to a new destiny.

Sometimes God brings a hurt into our lives to get us moving.

- ✓ Maybe you lost a job
- ✓ Was passed over on a promotion
- ✓ Or feel a friend has betrayed you.

I would stand here and tell you don't quit, don't give up in your trials, look by faith there is a greater destiny coming your way.

God will NEVER turn his back on you, and will never put anything on you that you cannot handle.

The first point we discussed was...

God tests our hearts in our hurts

God directs in our hurts, and the third point is...

3. God corrects us in our hurts.

God can also use our hurts to correct us. There are other times when we are wrong.

We have strayed into sin, we have made wrong choices and we need God's correction.

Jonah disobeyed God. He went the opposite direction. Finally, he was thrown into the sea. He should have been killed in the middle of the sea. God is so good, even before he could repent God sent a great fish and kept him alive in the sea. Jonah repented in the belly of the fish and God brought him out of that situation and led him back to the direction God wanted him to take.

Do you remember the parable of the **prodigal son** who took his share, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living? After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, & he began to be in need. So he went & hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. His wrong choices, his sin brought him to this condition. Finally, the problems got so much for him and he felt so defeated that he decided to correct his attitude & his actions and go back to his father's house. He went back as a slave or a servant but the father accepted him back as a son.

Do you realize that when we deliberately stray from what we know is right, God has promised to correct us?

Hebrews 12:5-6 *"⁵ My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord **disciplines the one he loves**, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."*

We have all made mistakes, we have all made choices like Jonah, but that does not change God.

He loves you and is still drawing you closer to him and if you can repent, he will forgive us and will bring you through it.

Some of you may tell, "Pastor you do not know the mistakes I have made, you do not know my situation, my life has gone too far I cannot get back to God."

I would tell you that you don't know the mistakes I have made time and time again, I may not know the specific issues that you are going through, however, I know God who is a forgiver, who is a restorer and he has never given up on you.

Remember, this is not the time to get bitter, God is in it and he is correcting you. When you get back there is going to be joy and rejoicing.

The first point we discussed was...

God tests our hearts in our hurts

God directs in in our hurts,

God corrects us in our hurts. The next point is...

4. God protects us in our hurts.

Sometimes God uses failures and problems to protect us.

Joseph was obviously his father's favorite son. And as a result of this favoritism, his brothers were filled with hatred and bitterness towards him.

Then one day in their hatred they sold him as a slave to a caravan traveling to Egypt. It all happened so quickly. One moment he was the favorite son, getting anything he wanted and the next he was in chains and being sold into slavery.

Life couldn't seem to be any worse for Joseph.

He felt defeated, lonely, unloved, rejected but God had a purpose & a plan for what he was going through.

God took him out of slavery and made him a ruler in Egypt, second only in power to Pharaoh.

Years later, during the time of a severe famine, Joseph saw his brothers once again when they came to Egypt to beg for the privilege of buying food. They had no idea that this Egyptian ruler standing before them was Joseph.

Finally when Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, they were petrified with fear & begged Joseph not to kill them.

See what Joseph said back to his brothers.

Genesis 45:7-8, ⁷ “God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.”

Joseph probably felt defeated and a failure until this very day, away from his family, but now he realized it was God’s protection upon Joseph’s life.

He got a new perspective now. Remember through Joseph’s trouble God even protected his family.

Genesis 45:5 “And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.”

1 Peter 3:12 (NASB), “For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Are you going through trials, heartache, hardships or hurt in life; unbeknownst to you God’s hand of protection is all over you.

The first point we discussed was...

God tests our hearts in our hurts

God directs in in our hurts,

God corrects us in our hurts.

God protects us in our hurts. The last point is...

5. Hurts make us rely on God.

Sometimes it is only when we are crushed and down that we see the face of God, and we wholeheartedly learn to trust in him.

See what Apostle Paul has to about his hardships:

2 Corinthians 1:8-9,

⁸ “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.”

Scholars say that the trial was the great riot that broke out in Ephesus mentioned in Acts 19. The life of all the Christians in that city was under threat.

Paul must have gone through some unusual emotional stress and physical threat during this time.

He came to the lowest the human spirit can come to, the uttermost sense of despair. He said, *“We felt that we had received the sentence of death.”*

It was absolutely hopeless; he had given up; there was no way out. But then he adds, but that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

Paul says very clearly that the trial was to refocus his **attention back to God.**

You see at times God is allowing things to happen to you in order for you to come back to the one that has always been there.

After going through the trial see what Paul says:

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ *“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”*

Paul says it very boldly that hurts, hardships, and trials cannot destroy a child of God, but in fact it promotes us.

- ✓ Your challenges cannot destroy you,
- ✓ It cannot stop you,
- ✓ And you will not be crushed.

One of the major reasons God sends us suffering is to refocus our trust in God.

God is at work in your life even when you do not recognize it or understand it. He’s in the storm with you. He’s calling you to rise above it, rise above your situation.

Illustration: Do you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the

eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm. When the storms of life come upon us we can rise above them by setting our minds toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them.

Philippians 4:19 *"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."*

James 1:12 *"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."*

It means that God is working through everything that happens in our lives, and no matter what the problem or heartache may be, God will turn it around for you and in the process make you in the image of his Son.

A man just got married and was returning home with his wife. They were in a boat, when suddenly a great storm arose. The man was a warrior, but the woman became very much afraid because it seemed almost hopeless:

The boat was small and the storm was really huge, and any moment they were going to be drowned. But the man sat silently, calm and quiet, as if nothing was happening.

The woman was trembling and she said, "Are you not afraid?"

This may be our last moment of life! It doesn't seem that we will be able to reach the other shore. Only some miracle can save us; otherwise death is certain. Are you not afraid?

The man laughed and took the sword out of its sheath. The woman was even more puzzled: What he was doing? Then he brought the naked sword close to the woman's neck, so close that just a small gap was there, it was almost touching her neck.

He said, "Are you afraid?"

She started to laugh and said, "Why should I be afraid? If the sword is in your hands, why I should be afraid? I know you love me.

He put the sword back and said, this is my answer.

I know God Loves me, and the storm is in His hands

