Prayer Request: Dear heavenly Father, it’s only through the gospel of your grace that I’ve come to know you to be a beautiful God. Before then, your loveliness was veiled to me, mostly by the darkness of my unbelief. But now, your splendor outshines the sun; your excellences stagger my imagination; and your kindness melts my heart. I long for the Day when we will see the unfettered undiminished beauty of your face- Amen

Icebreaker: As Christmas season is in full swing, what commercials have caught your attention this year? Any particular gifts that have caught your eye?

Read Psalm 27:4 & Song of Solomon 2:1

Psalm 27:4- One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

Song of Solomon 2:1- I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

Sermon Outline: Bearing Witness to Jesus
1. When you have to face your own fears
2. When you are most aware of your own sin
3. When you need to be renewed in love

Discussion Questions

1. As you heard the word of God preached or read what did God’s Spirit remind you of, challenge you with, convict you of, or encourage you in? Did you have any questions or was anything unclear?

2. “One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.” David wants every stream in his life to flow into one river which implies he wants his life to be about one thing. What is the sole desire for David in his life? What do you think David meant by “dwelling in the house of the LORD?” As David desired to gaze upon the Lord, why is this request interesting in context with other passages of scripture?

“We will pass the unnumbered days of eternity in the courts of heaven contemplating the beauty and glory of our Redeemer” (Horne)

3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6. How does Christ allow us to see God and His glory? How did Jesus satisfy what David longed for? We wont ever see Christ as a baby nor will we see Him on the cross. According to Sunday’s sermon, how will we be able to see Christ today? (Isaiah 33:17 and 1 John 3:2)
4. David says, “I know I’m going to enjoy this forever, but I want a taste of it now!’ That’s what faith brings: It gives you a taste now of the joy that will be yours forever in the presence of the Lord. How might you cultivate the sort of hunger that David is displaying for Christ and His beauty? What glorious truths can you behold in Christ this season? How might you take time this Christmas season to behold God during the many distractions?

   “Faith is the gaze of the soul upon a saving God” -A W Tozer

5. Read Psalm 27:1-3. How does David face his fears? What difficulty is David facing in this passage? What gives him confidence when his mind could so easily be overwhelmed with horrendous possibilities? What truths can we learn from David’s response in verse 4? According to this text, how are we to face our fears? What fears have you been facing and how might this posture give you victory in Christ?

6. Looking at the life of David we see a man who struggled with looking at the wrong things. (Bathsheba) How does David’s desire to gaze at the Lord show change in a man who had gazed at lustful things? What does this show us about the change in David’s heart? “One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after… to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD” Looking at the context of David’s sin, how does this passage have greater meaning? Based on this text, how might you encourage someone who has been numb to sin because of their gazing at the wrong things?

   There are some who seem to think that they can bully men to Christ: but that is a great mistake. It is very seldom that sinners can be driven to the Savior; His way is to draw them…”

   [Christ’s] beauty is of such a character that it creates love.”

7. What do you do when your own heart has grown cold? What is David’s answer to that question in the scriptures? Where have you been challenged this week in your affections towards Christ the Rose? How can you as a life group gaze at Christ? (Please take time as group to list the beautiful things you see in Christ).

   Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me and choosing me before the foundation of the world. You are my Father—my creator, redeemer, sustainer, and the end of all things, including my life. Thank you for proving Your love for me by sending Jesus. I receive him and all His life and all His work which You ordained for me. Thank you for including me in Christ, forgiving me my sins, granting me His righteousness, making me complete in Him. Thank You for making me alive with Christ, raising me with Him, seating me with Him at Your right hand, establishing me in His authority, and anointing me with Your love and Spirit. In Christ name—Amen

   Memory Verse: Psalm 27:4

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1 Spurgeon Sermon #2472, The Best of the Best.