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Proving the Goodness of God; Psalm 34:8

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Introduction – I love to read through the Bible once every year. It's just always been a practice and goal that I've pursued in my spiritual life. I've just always thought if God thought we needed to hear these words, if God has actually spoken words to us, if the Bible is indeed God talking to me, then I really and truly need to hear it. I need to know what God has said, all of what God has said. So each year I know I have at least let my eyes go over every word of sacred Scripture. That allows me to be exposed to the big picture, the view from 30,000 ft, so to speak. I take in the breadth.

But we also need the depth of God's riches. So sometimes it's good to just take one verse of Scripture, and really today we're taking one half of a verse of Scripture, and drill down deep, and meditate, and make application. To really dissect and digest all the marrow. To internalize and apply just one sentence of the words of God. Pull one verse out, put it under the microscope of the Holy Spirit, and observe and rejoice in how every word, phrase are full of meaning.

Psalm 34:8 is one of those verses that we would do well to give great attention.

- I. An Invitation
 - a. God is issuing to us an invitation through David's pen. He is welcoming us to Himself.
 - b. Ill. Invitation from a spiritual hero (Billy Graham, Charles Stanley) I would imagine that you would rearrange your schedule if needed. You would look forward. You would plan ahead, what you would wear, what you would say. You would make travel plans to arrive in plenty of time and not be late. You would be a little nervous. You would be honored and thankful. It would be a great event in your life. You would tell everyone about the day you met your spiritual hero.
 - c. God has sent everyone of us an invitation. Are we ready for this? Have we prepared and planned? Are we looking forward to this?
 - d. God has spoken to you. He has written an invitation and it has your name on it. It's addressed to the reader. "I want you to know Me!"
 - e. The Bible is filled with invitation!

- i. Matt 11:28 – Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
 - ii. Rev 3:20 – Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.
- f. The amazing thing about all these invitations is that God extends them to sinners!

II. An Invitation to Experience God

- a. Tasting and Seeing are terms of experience. God wants us to encounter Him. He wants us to experience Him. He desires that we know the joy and fullness of fellowship with Him. That we be satisfied in Him. That we give Him praise for all He's done for us.
- b. What happens though is that we cannot truly taste and see the Lord is good without first seeing how much we need His goodness. When we encounter the Lord, we will encounter ourselves.
 - i. Isaiah 6:1-7 – (saw the Lord, saw himself, then he tasted and saw the goodness of God)
 - ii. Luke 5:1-11 – (saw the Lord, saw himself, then he tasted and saw the goodness of God)
 - iii. The same is true for us – before we truly taste and see the Lord is good, we need to see how much we need His goodness!
- c. The difference between knowing something is true and experiencing it. There is a large gap between what I know to be true and having the experience of that truth in my life.
 - i. Ill. How we interact with the Bible – we can agree with truth but never really encounter it. But once we experience it in our lives, it changes us, it affects us, it become true in our heart and not just in our mind.
 - ii. Ill. Dave Busby's ill.
- d. God desires that we not only know Him in our mind, but in our heart. When we encounter Him as an unbeliever or as a believer, it changes us, it affects us. Truth agreed upon becomes truth lived through.
- e. Taste and see that the Lord is good! God wants us to experience Him. In so doing, we will taste and see our need of His goodness, and His goodness will affect us, it will change us!

- III. What the Lord Wants Us to Experience About Him
 - a. His goodness. I'm starting to see this more and more in Scripture. Yes, God wants us to know He is holy, He is just, He is wrathful against sin, He is sovereign – but He also wants us to know He is merciful, He is gracious, He is forgiving. He wants us to know and experience His goodness!
 - b. Romans 2:4 says the kindness of God leads to repentance.
 - c. III. Ex 33:17-23, 34:6-7

Conclusion – God wants us to taste and see, to experience and know, not just that He is God, but also that He is good!