

A Sermon about Trusting God

- This: sermon re trusting God, bec Ps 146 is sermon re trusting God. To trust in God means to bel that Lord is reliable, dependbl, and evthng says is true. Means to have confdnc in Lord, put your faith in him. In your hrt, abstly sure/certain that in his wisdom he has your best interests in mind, always. You're convncd he will never let you down, even when things in life look bad. Nthng can change mind re that; you have no doubts re it. That's what means to trust in God. This: sermon re trusting God, bec Ps 146 is sermon re trusting God. Now I know all us here tonight: Xians; we do trust God. So when you hear vs. 1-2, your reaction is: "Yeah, that's me; I do that; I praise Lord, bec I trust him" That's how works: first trust, then as result, praise. So all of us can say vs. 2b.
- But do we? Do we really always trust God, w/o any doubts, even when things are looking bad? JB is sitting in some dark Palestinian prison for proclmng wrd/Lord. Mind you, this is man who: baptzd J, saw hvn opened, heard voice Fr; called J Lamb/God takes away sin/wrld; even recognized that he himself was fulflmnt Isa 40: the voice calling wildrnss, prepare way Lord. So now John's in prison, and wondrng, "What's going on? Doesn't God care? I know we all have cross bear. But come on; why's God putting me thru this?" So, John "**sent his discs to ask [J], 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect smone else?'"** (Mt 11:2-3). JB, forerunner of Sav, began to doubt God. Needed sermon re trusting God.
- And if that can hap him, can certly hap us, as well. And I think quite often does. Very often we look at life sittn, think: "What's going on? Doesn't God care? I undrstnd: cross bear. But come on; why God putting me thru this? And you've got fill in blank for whtvr ugly this is in your life: physcl pain, medcl condtn; emotnl strain, anxiety; guilt, remorse, shame for sin comtd; could be a broken/breaking rel w/spouse, kids, prnts, frnds; stress at work/home/school; or just a deep sadness for pain you see in others. Why God putting me thru this? And I know: many ppl among us suffrng right now; real pain, real hurt. And when we hurt, mind quickly jumps from: bad thing; God said cares; doesn't look like; trust spirals dwnwrld into doubt. JB doubted; we do, too. We need a sermon re trusting God.
- Ps 146 is sermon re trusting God; short little sermon that starts "I praise God bec I trust in him." But then quickly warns, vs. 3-4. That remind you of a hymn stanza? "*Trust not in princes, they are but mortal; earthborn they are and soon decay. Vain are their counsels at life's last portal when the dark grave will claim its prey*" (CW 619). See, whnvr we transfer our trust off God onto anyone/thng else, that's distrusting God. And know where this often happens? In politics. Last few yrs been excrcngly poltcl, and ppl can easily become very excitd re/dividd by their poltes. Now, this is no poltcl sermon, and I don't care who voted for. But this psg/Scrprr clearly warns you vs transfng your trust off God onto anyone else (pres, senator, govrnr, mayor, reprsnttv, aldrmn, judge) bec cannot save you. Listen again: vs. 3-4. Politicians cannot save you. "*Trust not in princes...dark grave will claim its prey.*"
- Do you know next line/hymn? "*Since, then, no one can help afford, trust only Christ, our God and Lord.*" When you find self in this tension btwn doubting/trusting, btwn looking to Lord for help or looking anywhere else, that's when you need a sermon re trusting God. And Ps 146 is that sermon, bec it gives you the reason to trust God. Listen to reasons: vs. 6-9a. What sound like to you? To me, sounds lot like J telling JB: "**The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me**" (Mt 11:5-6).

- When you go thru times/doubt, J is answer! He: answer to John's doubts; and answer to our doubts, as well! Our hrts cannot be convncd trust God simply by being told, "You should trust God." Our hrts can only be convncd of God's trstwrthns when God demnstrts trstwrthns. And God does demnstr trstwrthns thru J. Just look at mangr; look at baby in mangr who is God w/us, who came down fr hvn to live among us! Just look at cross! Look at bleeding/dying Son/God on cross, loving you, forgvng you, proving to you that you can trust him! Look at his empty tomb; defeated your greatest enemy; he's stronger than death! If you want proof of God's love/care/concern for you, just look at Xp – the infant, the crucified, the risen one – bec when you do, you see all the supprtnng proofs of God's trstwrthns, like: (Mt 11:5-6) and like (vs. 6-9a). J is the reason why we trust God!
- That's so simple but so imp bec we all have tendency doubt, just like JB. And if Advent all about preprng hrts for Xp, and if our doubts are getting in way of preprng hrts for Xp, then what we need: sermon re trusting God. Whtvr ugliness you may be going thru in life right now; whtvr painful trials facing; howvr fiercely Stn's tempting you to doubt God – look to J; he is the reason to trust God. Cling to J, and never let go, bec he will never let you go. In Xp you have help and you have hope. Vs. 5.

Psalm 146

¹Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul. ²I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. ⁴When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

⁵Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. ⁶He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – he remains faithful forever. ⁷He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, ⁸the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. ⁹The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.