

Title: What a Wonderful Life!

Passage: Psalm 133

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Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage

- David's kingdom was finally established as united but only after challenges to the throne and fighting.
- Northern and Southern Kingdoms now united.

Background of Passage

- Written by David
- Psalm of Assent / Praise

I. Key Truth

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

Behold

- We hurry, gaze, and witness the potentially fleeting spectacle
- What is it? When brothers dwell in unity
 - Why? Unity is not normal
- Consider: God made visible in Christ Jesus calls you His brothers (and sisters)!
- Question: What do you behold? Answer: What we behold shapes and molds us into its image

Exodus 32:5a

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it.

- bad example of beholding bad thing, then worshipping it

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- we turn into what we behold

How good and pleasant it is

- Unity is good objectively in of itself.
- We are to focus on the goodness of unity

Genesis 2:18

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

- God created humans to create unity

Unity

- oneness, communion
- Not uniformity/sameness (see body of Christ, differences in unity)

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Dwell in unity

- Dwell = live in it requiring determination and discipline
- Unity is active, not a static state

James 1:16-17

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

II. Special Illustration: Oil

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

Oil

- substance that permeates and saturates

Leviticus 8:1-4 (initial consecration of Aaron)

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments and the anointing oil and the bull of the sin offering and the two rams and the basket of unleavened bread. And assemble all the congregation at the entrance of the tent of meeting." And Moses did as the LORD commanded him, and the congregation was assembled at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

Leviticus 8:10-12 (pouring of oil on Aaron)

Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them. And he sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all its utensils and the basin and its stand, to consecrate them. And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to consecrate him.

Exodus 30:22-24 (unique recipe of oil)

The LORD said to Moses, "Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh 500 shekels, and of sweet-smelling cinnamon half as much, that is, 250, and 250 of aromatic cane, and 500 of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.

- anointing oil had a very unique fragrance

It is like the precious oil

- unity makes the church "smell" good, giving off an external characteristics that is unmistakable.

on the head

- Where oil was poured (top-down)

- Unity flows from leaders on throughout
- Prayer for our country and church (unity from leaders on down)

running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron,

- Oil flowed down through, including Aaron's priestly breastplate that reflected the names of all the tribes of Israel.
- Likewise, love continually moves out and eager to maintain the unity and bond of peace

Ephesians 4:1-6 (Unity in the Body of Christ)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- unity comes from God (we only maintain it)

Acts 10:38 (Anointing of the Holy Spirit)

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Isaiah 11:2 (OT prophecy)

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

John 7:39 (promise of Holy Spirit)

Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- whatever God does to us through Christ, God does to Christ Himself.
- We enjoy everything that our Head in heaven enjoys!
- We are part of His body so the blessings that flowed to Christ also flowed to us.

III. Natural Illustration: Dew

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

Mt. Hermon

- Located northern part of Israel (tallest peak of Israel), farthest point from Zion
- Its waters flow throughout Israel and flow south
- Israel is just a little larger than the County of Fresno
- Climate: snowy, mountain

Zion

- Located southern part of Israel (over 100 miles away)
- Climate: dry, desert

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

- the same dew of Mt. Hermon (in north) flows all the way to Mt. Zion (in the south)
 - Mt. Hermon's moisture transforms the dryness of Mt. Zion
- Likewise, unity flows all throughout and transforms
 - God supernaturally unifies His people that is inexplicable with natural reason .

IV. Command

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

Question: Are you known / marked / characterized by unity?

Ephesians 1:19-23 (prayer)

and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Isaiah 55:10-11

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

John 17:3 (Jesus' Prayer for Unity)

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

John 17:14-17

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:20-23

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Book: "Life Together"

- Christianity means unity in Jesus Christ and through Jesus Christ.
- We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.

- What a wonderful life!

Other Verses Shared

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Song: "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow"

https://youtu.be/95_dFICHVkM

Psalms 46:1-3, 10-11

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling...Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."