

# Why Does This King Rejoice?

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Preacher: J.D. Edwards

[ 0 : 00 ] And as I was preparing, part of me, of course, was hoping it would be something very familiar and personal favorite like Psalm 23 and we're just off of that. And Psalm 21 is one I don't think I had ever really studied carefully, but as God always does, he made it so clear.

This is the song for this day and for this audience. So I trust that as he ministers Psalm 21 to us as his church and even right here with friends that might be within earshot, that this is the song God picked for you today.

I'll read Psalm 21, trusting that it's God's inspired, inerrant, infallible, clear and sufficient word. It's God's very own powerful word for you and me, his people.

Psalm 21 to the chief musician, a Psalm of David. The king shall have joy in your strength, O Lord, and in your salvation. How greatly shall he rejoice?

You have given him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah. For you meet him with the blessings of goodness.

[ 1 : 09 ] You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. He asked life from you and you gave it to him, length of days forever and ever. His glory is great in your salvation.

Honor and majesty you have placed upon him. For you have made him most blessed forever. You have made him exceedingly glad with your presence.

For the king trusts in the Lord and through the mercy of the most high, he shall not be moved. Your hand will find all your enemies.

Your right hand will find those who hate you. You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger. The Lord shall swallow them up in his wrath and the fire shall devour them.

Their offspring you shall destroy from the earth and their descendants from the sons of men. For they intended evil against you. They devised a plot which they are not able to perform.

[ 2 : 10 ] Therefore, you will make them turn their back. You will make ready your arrows on your string toward their faces. Be exalted, O Lord, in your own strength.

We will sing and praise your power. The word of the Lord for the people of God. Thanks be to God. Please be seated. Isaiah 40 tells us that the grass withers and the flower fades.

But the word of the Lord stands forever. In Luke 1, the angel Gabriel who ministers in the presence of God himself says that the word of God shall not be void of power.

May it be so. Let's pray. Lord, we ask that your Holy Spirit will please make clear.

Illumine your word to your people today, Lord. And to all that you have brought close enough to hear of the glory of Jesus Christ. The Savior of sinners.

[ 3 : 15 ] Lord, we ask that you will please apply your truth to our lives, Lord, in a way that no preacher ever could. In a way that our own minds could never conceive.

We pray that you will make our hearts tender. Break up the hard soil. May the gospel of Jesus Christ be implanted in our hearts. And in the hearts of everyone that you redeemed and purchased by your blood.

All those that you are drawing near to yourself. Please do this for your glory alone we ask. Amen. Well, empathy means to undergo something or to feel something with another person.

When a person we are watching is in discomfort, we feel discomfort with them. When a person we are watching is disappointed, we respond to make things better.

Think of how you have experienced this. Your team was all watching your coach at halftime. Or maybe your class is all watching the teacher.

[ 4 : 30 ] And as kids, you have to watch your parents and respond accordingly. When they are happy, when they are rejoicing, when they are walking through the house whistling or singing and humming, then everyone's emotions seem to rise with them, don't they?

Well, in ancient Israel, under the old covenant, we see a very important principle that is still true for the kingdom of Christ. As goes the king, so goes the kingdom.

In Psalm 20, the psalm from last week, remember the king was low because all the people gather around and they wish for the king to be lifted up by God. As the king goes, so will we all go.

And now, in Psalm 21, the king is rejoicing. And all the people will rejoice with the king. So, beloved congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ and dear friends, who God has put you close enough to listen, the question I invite us to wrestle with together as we walk through Psalm 21 is this.

Why does this king rejoice? Why is it that this king rejoices? I have three reasons that I see here. The first, and we know the king is David.

[ 5 : 48 ] It's a psalm of David. He rejoices, first of all, because God answered his prayer. God answered David's prayer. Psalm 20 is the king and the people bringing their prayer before the Lord.

And Psalm 21 is how God has responded. The occasion of Psalm 20 was the king and the nation preparing to go to war. Now, the occasion of Psalm 21 is the king celebrating on the other side of the battle, celebrating the victory that God gave him once it's been accomplished.

It's a prayer that the king is singing in front of God's people. It's from the lips of the king, but it's directed to God. The whole thing, it's a prayer.

And the king is referring to himself in third person. Notice how both the intro and the outro. So verse 1 and verse 13, if you could take a look.

They set the theme of the whole psalm. They state what is true of God. And the tense, the verbs, the tense of the verbs is very important throughout the psalm.

[ 6 : 56 ] Verse 1 and verse 13, intro and outro, they both use the present tense. Look at verse 1, the king shall have joy. He shall have joy in your strength and in your salvation.

How greatly shall he rejoice? And then he goes in to rejoice throughout the whole psalm and continue to pray that. And verse 13, he says, be exalted. Right now, in this moment, present tense, be exalted, O Lord, in your strength.

We will sing and praise your power. The people are joining and praising the power of God. Now, there's a direct connection between Psalm 20 from last week, right before this.

You'll want to keep an eye at that one. In Psalm 21. In Psalm 20, verses 4 and 5, they wish, May the Lord fulfill all your petitions and grant your kings according to his heart's desire.

Do you see that in Psalm 20, verses 4 and 5? Notice how that's answered now in Psalm 21, verse 2. You, God, have given the king his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips.

[ 8 : 05 ] The prayer has been answered. That's why the king's rejoicing. One more example. Look at Psalm 20, verse 7. This is the great central part of this passage of this psalm.

They say, some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. And look at Psalm 21, verse 7. It concludes, the king trusts in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High, he shall not be moved.

The prayer has been answered. Their trust in the Lord has not been disappointed. And so Psalm 21 sings of God's faithfulness. We put our trust and our faith in God.

We underwent the battle. And we came out on the other side, praising the Lord victorious. He's done it again. Well, now the body of this psalm has two parts.

They can be divided by the tense as well. The first part is in the past tense, looking back on this battle that just came through. It's what the king witnessed God do.

[ 9 : 13 ] Look at verse 3. For you meet with him the blessings of goodness. You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. He asked you for life, and you gave it to him.

Length of days. Verse 5. His glory is great in your salvation. Honor and majesty you have placed on him. Verse 6. For you have made him most blessed. You have made him exceedingly glad of the joy of happiness with your presence.

And literally, verse 6 is saying, you have brightened the king. You have made his face glow with the countenance from being in the presence of God. And this is an allusion to what God did to Moses.

God brought Moses in a special way into his presence as the mediator between God and the people. And Moses came back glowing. His face brightened from being in the presence of God.

And that's what King David experienced and declares to the people. God is faithful and he was with me. I was in his presence all the while. And it's his joy. It's his joy to look at this God and celebrate his strength and his faithfulness to answer prayer.

[10:27] It's what God has already done and what King David witnessed God doing that he declares back to the people. So this king rejoices because God has answered prayer and because he has gotten to witness with his own eyes what God is faithful to do.

He asked it. God did it. And now he thanks God. Even these first few verses are an important point of application for us.

We are to bring our requests before God. We are to ask God to minister through his word and open our eyes to what he is doing. The spiritual advancement of his kingdom and to trust him and his faithfulness and his power and his strength to do it.

And by trusting him and walking with him in that way through the spiritual battle, we enjoy his presence. Our face is brightened by walking with God. But it doesn't stop there.

We are then to gather with his people and tell of God's goodness. Bear witness to God's faithfulness. Share with one another. Bear witness to God's faithfulness. And through the hardest times. Some of you have been through maybe the hardest week of your entire life.

[11:40] These past six days. We are to bear witness of God's faithfulness time and time again. One of our dear brothers has been a great example and a model to me.

There are a little bit over 30 households in our congregation and there's 30 or 31 days in each month. So he prays for each one of you one day of the month. Another great example from the Puritans, from this brother, from many of you, from my wife, is to write down what we're praying for. Keep a prayer journal. Why? Because we forget so quickly, don't we? But you start looking back and you say, whoa, we prayed for this a month ago, two months ago.

Look at this amazing answer to prayer. Not the way we would have imagined it. But look how faithful God is. And then we move into Psalm 21 mode and we praise God. We tell one another. We don't let it go unnoticed. God has been faithful. Look what he has done. Another good example is to encourage in your household and yourself devotionally.

[12:49] Let's pray for one person or family in the congregation. One of our relatives. Some know the Lord. They need prayer. Some don't know the Lord. They need prayer too. Let's bring that to God. And then let's pray for his kingdom.

Someone else that comes to mind from work or school. And let's thank the Lord when he is faithful. Well, there's one other reason why this king rejoices starting at verse 8.

And if you're like me, it's a bit of a twist. Catches you by surprise. Let me summarize what he rejoices for next this way. The king rejoices in what God will do. It's in the future tense.

What God will do in the future is hunt down and utterly demolish God's enemies. Those who seek to destroy God.

And the king rejoices and calls God's people to rejoice in that coming judgment of God upon all the enemies of God's advancing kingdom.

[13:50] And he rejoices in this. Look, we are not more compassionate than God. We need to align our prayers to scripture. Not the other way around.

So a lot of these verses, I don't want you to take my word for it. I want you to study it carefully in light of all the scripture. And you're going to hear me pulling in some of the folks that have more credibility than I do.

But that's what the king rejoices in. He trusts in what God is still to do. Look at verse 8. There's not going to be an enemy that gets to stay hiding behind a tree or behind a rock.

You oppose yourself to God. He will come and find you. Verse 9. God shall make them as a fiery oven in the day or the time of God's anger.

There is a day in the future, a time that's coming. And it's the wrath of the holy creator God poured out against all who have rebelled against him.

[14:59] Augustine. Thou shall make them on fire within by the consciousness of their ungodliness. You notice verse 9.

He says, you shall make them as a fiery oven. They themselves will be burning, said Augustine. With the fire within them.

That's lit by the consciousness of ungodliness. Charles Spurgeon. They shall not only be cast into a furnace of fire.

According to Matthew 13, 42. But they shall also be their own torment. The reflections and terrors of their own consciousness will be the internal torment of God's enemies in hell.

That's the end of Spurgeon's quote. Verse 9 goes on to say that the Lord shall swallow them up in his wrath. And the fire shall devour them.

[16:08] The wrath of God. God who is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. God who is eternal.

Immortal. All powerful. Holy. Pure. His wrath will swallow up. Consume.

Everything that's impure. There's no place to hide from the wrath of God. His sin will destroy sinfulness.

One commentator said, it's like the picture in this Psalm 21 of a furnace. Where the fire is extremely hot. And the heat. It's striking upon them from all sides.

From above. From below. From all about. On all surfaces. And the door to this furnace is closed.

There's no getting out of it. And there's no cool air coming in.

[17:07] In verse 10 he says, their offspring. You shall destroy from the earth.

Their descendants from among the sons of men. There's a day when evil men. And evil women.

Will not walk on the earth any longer. There will be no place for wicked sinners. In the new heavens and the new earth. There will be no future descendants.

For those who rebel against God. Verse 11. For they intended evil against God. They devised a plot. Which they are not able to perform.

They put all their chips. They put all their weapons. In a different kingdom. Thinking that they will be right in the end. And God's kingdom.

[18:06] Is the one that will prevail. And will stand at last. The plots to stand against God. Will all fail. Verse 12. Therefore God will make them.

Turn their back. As we've seen. This could be language of retreat. Turning and running away.

Fleeing from the advancing kingdom. Or it could be. Language of utter submission.

Put your nose in the dirt. Like Joshua made the enemies. And come step. Put the toe of your sandal. On the back of their neck. You will make ready.

Your arrows. On your string. Toward their faces. The Bible doesn't get any more. Violent. Than this language. Of the holy God.

Unleashing. And aiming his wrath. Against sinners. Their faces. Looking at him. Defiant. Just as our faces.

[19:05] Looked at Christ. On the cross. Spitting in his face. The holy God. Just. And powerful.

He makes ready. His arrows. On his string. Toward the faces. Of his enemies. Matthew Henry commented.

Those who might have had Christ. To rule over them. And save them. Will think. Of how they rejected him. And made him their enemy. Instead. That of itself.

Will be enough. To make them. For eternity. A fire. Inside of themselves. Brothers and sisters. Dear friends.

If by God's mercy. He's causing you. To hear this warning. Now. It's because he's loving. And compassionate. And his grace. Is for you now. Because there is a time.

[20:02] Coming. For God's wrath. Against sin. To be. Poured out. When God's will. Is set. It's his eternal decree. And God is.

Unchanging. When his will. Is set. To destroy sin. All of God's. Attributes. Follow. In accordance.

God's will. Is set. Against sin. So his omniscience. Will seek out. The object. Of his anger. His providence. It sharpens.

The sword. Of his wrath. His almightyness. Lifts up. So to speak. The full reserves. Of his arsenal. And it heaves it down. With fierce power.

To crush his enemies. God's will. Is set. Against. Sin. Sin. So what hope. Do sinners like you and me. Have. Of escaping.

[20:57] God's wrath. We have no hope. Of salvation. On our own. There is no ransom.

For people like you and me. From the holy God. Except. That it be given freely. By the holy God himself. And this he has done. By giving his own son.

Jesus Christ. Amen. Now we need to see. What happens. In Psalm 21. As the king rejoices.

In God's salvation. I'm going to point this out to you. By looking at the first. And the last psalm. Once more. Psalm 21. Verse 1. And verse 13. As the king rejoices.

In verse 1. That's how the psalm begins. He begins by. Singing alone. Looking forward. To rejoicing greatly. In God's salvation. Verse 1. The king. Shall have joy.

[ 21 : 55 ] In God's strength. And in God's salvation. How greatly he shall rejoice. But notice how now the nation. That witnessed God deliver their king.

When the people heard their king rejoicing. On the other side of the victory. They echo back with him. In verse 13. Be exalted. Oh Lord. In your own strength.

Look at the next word. It's in the plural. We will sing. And praise your power. So what happens as the king rejoices. In God's grace. Salvation. Is that the rejoicing spreads.

The rejoicing of the king. Is shared. With his people. People. So Psalm. 21. Ends with all God's people. Together. With the king.

Exalting. Singing. And praising God. For his strength. And power. What a great scene. To picture this. In ancient Israel. But the good news.

[ 22 : 53 ] Gets even better. The rejoicing. Gets shared. By even more people. And this Psalm. 21 itself. Points us.

Toward this. Would you look at. Verses 4 and 6. Psalm. 21. Verse 4. Speaks of. The king. Having length of days.

Forever. And ever. Now it's possible. That this is royal hyperbole. In other words. We love how it is. Under King David. Who is under God. May this never stop. David only lived.

To age 70. He did not live. Forever and ever. What about verse 6. You have made. The king. Most blessed. Forever. Was David.

Blessed forever. The promise. Of verse 7. Is that David. Would never. Be moved. This was not. Fulfilled. Historically. David did fall.

[ 23 : 50 ] He fell to sin. Publicly. Greatly. Late in his reign. He was not. Steadfast. Personally. David was moved. And David's line. Very quickly.

Lost the throne. And what about. The complete. Annihilation. Of the enemies. Of the king. Did that ever happen? Well you could say.

On one level. King David. And King Solomon. Extended the borders. And God was faithful. To all he promised. To Israel. But some of God's enemies. Were married. To King Solomon.

So there's no way. It could have been fulfilled. Under David and Solomon. And after them. It doesn't get any better. For national Israel. Their reign.

Was not. Long lasting. So Psalm 21. For God's people. For God's people. From every generation. To look forward. To a. Even more final. Fulfillment.

[ 24 : 44 ] Psalm 21. Was given to God's people. To help us celebrate. The victory. Of the Messiah. The coming king. The occasion of Psalm 20.

You remember. It was the king. Preparing to go to war. And in Psalm 21. It celebrates. How that prayer was answered. The promise that the mission. Would be accomplished. The battle would be won.

The victory song. Would be sung. Psalm 21. Would have encouraged. Our Lord Jesus. As he knew. He was going into battle. For his people. He would be victorious.

On the other side. He would get to receive. All of these promises. He would get to sing. Psalm 21. On the other side. Psalm 21.

Begins with the king. Singing alone. Looking forward. To rejoicing. In the deliverance. God would give him. Think of this. From the lips of Jesus Christ.

[ 25 : 40 ] The king of kings. Trusting this promise. Of verse one. The king. The Messiah. The anointed one of God. Shall have joy. In God's strength.

Oh Lord. And in your salvation. How greatly. Jesus Christ. Shall rejoice. According to his divine nature. Our Lord Jesus. Knew that his victory.

And dominion. Would be inaugurated. Spiritually. At his resurrection. His ascension. And his session. At the right hand. Of God almighty. In heaven. He also knew.

That the total surrender. Of all of God's enemies. Those who oppose. His advancing kingdom. Would be. Consumately completed. At his return to earth. The great day.

On which he will judge. The living. And the dead. And since there was no army. Around King Jesus. As he prepared to go to battle. For you and for me.

[ 26 : 36 ] There was no. Faithful soldiers around him. To sing their part. It would have been God. The Holy Spirit. Who would have reassured Jesus. Of God's faithfulness.

The Holy Spirit. Would have reminded Jesus. Of all that God. The Father promised. He would do for him. His anointed king. Brothers and sisters.

Please pray for me. As I proclaim. Jesus. God our Savior. To whoever has an ear to hear. May he be magnified. In his power. As we hold him up.

Crucified. For all who will come to him. According to his divine nature. Being all knowing. Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Knew. He would have. A crown of thorns. Pressed onto his head. In just a few hours. Oh but the Holy Spirit. Certainly would have. Reminded Jesus.

[ 27 : 30 ] Of the great truth. Like we see in Psalm 21. Verse 3. Jesus. God. Will meet you. Messiah. With the blessings of goodness.

God will soon. Set a crown. Of pure gold. Upon your head. Think of when Jesus. Turned to his followers. And he reassured. Of how good the ministry.

Of the spirit is. He knew this firsthand. The Holy Spirit. Is a good advocate. He's your good counselor. He's your faithful minister.

The Lord Jesus received his ministry personally. And it was in the garden of Gethsemane. Where the Lord Jesus agonized. So intensely. According to his human nature.

And surely Christ's knowledge. Of Psalm 21. Verses 8 and 9. Added. And multiplied. This agony. Look at verse 8. Think of this.

[ 28 : 28 ] As Jesus would pray it in Gethsemane. God. Oh God. On their own. My people can only hate you. So I must put myself. In the place. Of your enemies.

I must put myself. In the place. Of those I will purchase. With my blood. God's mighty hand. Must first. Come against me. Instead of them.

I must become the substitute. For these. God's beloved enemies. I must endure. The torturous punishments. They deserve. God's all powerful.

Right hand. Must crush. And slay me. Instead of them. How fierce. The anger. Of the holy God.

Against the sins. Of his creatures. Surely. That's why Jesus. In the garden. Prayed. In Luke 22. 42. Father. If it is your will. Take this cup. Away from me.

[ 29 : 26 ] Nevertheless. Not my will. But yours. Be done. And that's what our Lord Jesus Christ did. As the old hymn puts it. Death.

And the curse. Were in our cup. Oh Christ. T'was full for thee. But thou hast drained. The last dark drop.

Tis empty. Now for me. That bitter cup. Love. Drink it down. Now blessings. Draft. For me. Think of how much.

Weight. Weight. Of sin. Our savior bore. All the worst sins. That you and I. Have committed against him. Plus. All of the vilest deeds. Of all those.

Who are his. From every single. Generation. Think of the weight of that. Like. A hundred thousand tons. Of gross. Concentrated evil.

[ 30 : 21 ] All of that. Dropped. On his holy. Undeified. Body. And under that weight. Our Lord Jesus labored. To breathe.

And he knew. Like Psalm 21. Verse 9. My battle. On the mount. Of the skull. Will be the time. Of God's anger. Against the sins. Of my people. In order to save them.

God must first. Make me. A fiery oven. To save my beloved. God's wrath. Must swallow up. My flesh. First. The fire. Of God's justice.

Must devour me. To pay for the sins. Of my church. This is what our Lord Jesus. Underwent. To redeem. His people.

In just a few moments. After praying in the garden. God the Son. Would drag his cross. Up Calvary's hill. And he would be nailed to it. And he would be lifted up.

[ 31 : 22 ] Silent. Bleeding. The Lamb of God. Foretold of old. The pure sacrifice. Required by the just creator.

The giver of life. Would die. Oh but Christ could preach to himself. Even as he hung on the cross. Like Psalm 21.

Verse 4. Verse 4. This king. Promised by God. From long ago. Asks God. For life. And God gives it to him.

Length of days. Length of days. Forever and ever. Because soon our Lord Jesus. Though now he's lifted up as a spectacle. A failure. A shame. In disgrace. Despised.

Rejected. Abandoned. Mocked. Forsaken. Soon. He could preach to himself. Verse 5. His glory will be great. In God's salvation. Honor. In majesty.

[ 32 : 16 ] God will once again. Place upon Jesus Christ. And it was in the garden. Where our Lord Jesus Christ. Could find that strength. By the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

To endure. This torturous cross. He could trust. That he. The Messiah. Shall have. Joy. In God's. Strength. Oh Lord. And in God's salvation. He will. Again. Greatly. Rejoice. God. The Holy Spirit. Reminded Jesus.

Of the joy. Set before him. And empowered. By the Holy Spirit. Jesus. Set his face. Like flint. And he went. To fight the battle.

Hebrews 12. 2. Says that Jesus Christ. The author. And finisher. Of our faith. For the joy. That was set. Before him. Endured the cross.

[ 33 : 10 ] Despising. The shame. And he was. Risen. And glorified. Seated. At God's right hand.

Having accomplished. His mission. Having won. The victory. So that he could share. His great. Rejoicing. With you. That he purchased.

With his own. Blood. So that you could sing. Of God's praise. You could sing. Of God's. Great salvation. Well if you're like me.

You're thinking. Well how do I know. Whether I'm one. That he saved. That he purchased. With his blood. How do I know? Come to Jesus. Go to him.

He is set forth. Freely. For you. If you come to Jesus. It's because his spirit. Is drawing you to him. The spirit. Is drawing you to him.

[ 34 : 04 ] Because you belong to him. He is the good shepherd. And his sheep. Know his voice. The good shepherd. Calls his sheep. By name. And they.

Come. To him. And they follow him. Follow. Jesus. Psalm 21.

Began with. The king. Singing alone. But it ends. With all those. Who know his voice. Exalting. Singing. And praising God. For God's.

Strength. And power. So you. Who know Jesus. Who love Jesus. Who even wonder. Is Jesus for me? Praise God. For his great salvation.

And trust him. That he is yours. By his free grace. Alone. We too can sing. Verse 13. Be exalted. Oh Lord. In your own strength.

[ 34 : 59 ] Not by anything. We've done. Or added. It's your strength. To save. Sinners. Like you and me. We praise God. Dear friends. Do you see.

How King Jesus. Rejoices. To save people. Like you and me. He made himself. Loan. But now he is risen.

And he is singing. Rejoicing. And his Holy Spirit. Is poured out. And his Holy Spirit. Is calling. All who will walk. To Jesus.

To repent. To believe him. To trust him. To know how good he is. The Holy Spirit. Calls you in the words of the hymn. That we'll sing in just a moment. Arise.

Dear child. Arise. Shake off your guilty fears. The bleeding sacrifice. Jesus Christ. In our behalf appears.

[ 35 : 56 ] Before the throne. Your surety stands. Your name is written on his hands. The Father hears him pray. His dear anointed one.

He cannot turn away. The presence of his son. The Spirit answers to the blood. And tells you. You are born of God. Our God is reconciled.

His pardoning voice you hear. He owns you. For his child. You can no longer fear. With confidence. We now draw nigh.

And Father. Abba Father. Cry. Oh praise God. Who rejoices to save people like you.

And like me. Through King Jesus. God's son. By the power of the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit has applied God's word to you.

[ 36 : 55 ] Don't leave today the same. Pray. You don't need a priest. You don't need a mediator. Jesus is your priest.

Jesus is your mediator. Come straight to him. Know that he has made it possible for you to be reconciled. And adopted. Into God's family.

Safe, secure. In him forever. Oh but if he's such a loving God. How could you go on living the same? Follow him. And he calls us to do that with his church.

If you don't have a place to call your spiritual family. We would love to talk with you. And answer any questions you have. And let the Holy Spirit do that work that only he can do. Let's pray that he will do just that for his glory.

Please pray with me. Father thank you for this great salvation. That you have accomplished. And that you apply. Salvation is yours from beginning to end.

[ 37 : 54 ] That no man, no woman, no boy, no girl may boast. Salvation is for God's glory alone. By the work of Jesus Christ. The King of Kings.

Applied to us by God the Holy Spirit. Please do this powerfully Lord. To those that you purchased with your own blood. Amen. Amen. Well we'll prepare next for the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is set before you. It's not for everyone. This is the body and the blood of Jesus Christ spiritually. And it's more than a remembrance.

It's the Holy Spirit ministering it to his people. The first step for a safe center is to believe and be baptized. That's a one time celebration that you are adopted.

You are renamed. You receive the name of God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Then the ongoing celebration of God's covenant of grace is the Lord's Supper. So for that reason it's not for everyone.

[ 38 : 54 ] It's for those who have believed and who are baptized. And who are following Christ. If you are not qualified, don't take it today. Don't drink judgment on yourself. Instead, pray.

Repent. Believe. Get baptized. Walk with the Lord. Follow him. Become a member of a biblical church. Doesn't have to be this one. A biblical church that loves the Lord Jesus and is under his word.

For those who meet this criteria. Even if your faith is weak. Even if you are so aware of how much of a sin still remains in your heart today. You still should come to the Lord's Supper.

You should come trusting in him alone. Not in any good works that we have done. Nothing can add.

The one criteria for taking the Lord's Supper. Is that the Holy Spirit indwells you.

And this is recognized by the church. To the best of our ability. I'm going to read from Luke 17 one more time. And I hope you can see the connection.

[ 39 : 54 ] These ten lepers. All ten have leprosy. All ten are healed. Only one comes back and gives thanks. Tells Jesus thank you. So by coming to the Lord's Supper today.

Let this be a picture that he heals. Those of us who are lepers. We are born with sin. That is terminal. Fatal. And we come in response of gratitude.

This is not a way to gain favor with God. He already has all the favor he could possibly give in in Christ. Applied to you. And so this is an expression of your gratitude.

And we're doing this in the public today. Though it's not for everyone. Because we're told that as we take the Lord's Supper. We're proclaiming Christ. Till he comes again. We're proclaiming him unashamed.

And he will be unashamed. Of those who proclaim him. When he comes in glory. With a host of angels. Right now it's a tiny piece of lawn. But one day his glory. Will cover all the new earth.

[ 40 : 52 ] All the new heavens. As the waters cover the sea. So hear this passage from Luke 17. Now it happened as he went to Jerusalem.

Jesus passed through the midst of Samaria. In Galilee. Then as he entered a certain village. There he met ten men who were lepers. Who stood afar off. Some of you are maybe standing afar off from Jesus today.

And they lifted up their voices and said. Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. So when he saw them. He said to them. Go show yourselves to the priests. And so that as they went.

They were cleansed. And one of them when he saw. That he was healed. Returned. And with a loud voice. Glorified God. And he fell down on his face.

At Jesus' feet. Giving him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said. Were not the ten cleansed.

[ 42 : 13 ] But where are the nine? Were there not any who found. To return and give glory to God. Except this foreigner. And he said to him.

Arise. Go your way. Your faith. Has made you well. You may be served. We'll take the elements. Back to our seats.

Once. Everyone. For whom this table is open. Has taken those elements. We'll stand together. And enjoy. From this table.