

12 March 2017 - Second Sunday in Lent

Readings: Gen. 12:1–4a; Ps. 121; Rom. 4:1–5, 13–17; John 3:1–17.

INTRO: *Finders, keepers, losers, reapers* – **Psalm 121:5**, “The LORD is your keeper.”



I. PRESENCE FINDERS.

Psalm 121:1-2, “I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

Illus. Bill Hybels, “If and when you hit a wall, **look up.**”

John 3:14-15, “As Moses **lifted up** the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be **lifted up**, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”



II. PRESENCE KEEPERS.

Psalm 121:5-7, “The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.”

John 10:28-29, “I give them eternal life, and **they will never perish**, and **no one will snatch them out of my hand**. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.**”



III. PRESENCE LOSERS (weepers).

Mark 15:34, “My God, my God, **why have you forsaken me?**”

Ephesians 4:30, “Do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19, “Do not **quench** the Spirit.”



IV. PRESENCE REAPERS.

Psalm 121:8, “The LORD will keep **your going out and your coming in** from this time forth and forevermore.”

John 1:32, “And John bore witness: ‘I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, **and it remained on him.**’”

Bill Johnson: “We know that the Holy Spirit lives in us as born-again believers. The amazing promise that accompanies this reality is that He will never leave us. What a promise. What a comfort this is. But the sad reality is that the Holy Spirit doesn’t rest upon every believer. He is in me for my sake, but He is upon me for yours. When the Holy Spirit rests upon a person without withdrawing, it is because He has been made welcome in a most honourable way.” (*Hosting the Presence*).

A. Learn to abide. John 15:4, “Abide in me.” Prayer and worship.

B. Learn to listen. John 10:3, “The sheep hear his voice.”

C. Learn to follow. John 10:4, “the sheep follow him.”

D. Learn to labour.

Matthew 9:37-38, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.” In the process labourers/harvest multiply.



CONCLUSION: Why is hosting the presence of God so important? The mission God has called us to: Go! “Where?” I/we don’t know (Hebrews 13:8). “Trust God; trust me.” (John 14:1).

Illus. This past week our family has been thrown into a sea of grief. “Praying mantis on our front curtains! Don’t know how he managed to get into the house so far without getting eaten by Harry or Toby.”

May God help each us to be better Presence Finders, Keepers, Non-losers and Reapers, in Jesus’ name.

Pastor Aldi ☺