Repeat - **Psalms: Hallelujah forever!**

**150 songs, 400 years, 12+ authors – a shuffle through the best - Jesus Spotify playlist.**

**We’ve read the lyrics – took a look behind the music – but a bigger question for us - Is it about the lyrics or a lifestyle?**

**Today, Psalm 146 – Psalm 146:1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. 3 Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. 4 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. 5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, 6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; 7 who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; 8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. 9 The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. 10 The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**This Psalm is the difference between a song sung and a lifestyle lived. Let’s break it down.**

**Psalm 146:1 Praise the LORD! (Hallelujah – for those around me) Praise the LORD, O my soul! (Halleluiah – for me!) 2 I will praise the LORD (YHVH) as long as I live; (not just today, but for every day in this life!) I will sing praises to my God (Elohim) while I have my being. (Hallelujah for my eternal existence!)**

**Hallelujah - today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year, the year after that, the next decade, the next 50 years, all my days, and for all eternity - Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!**

**Powerful declaration. How was he able to declare that so confidently? We don’t know who wrote this, but I want this attitude!**

**Don’t you wish you had days with more of that? He tells us how he got there, and how to get past the lyrics to lifestyle, How to live a Hallelujah Life!**

**\*\*\* Our confidence must not be in people (not about trusting others)**

**3 Put not your trust in princes, (politicians, the wealthy, and powerful people) in a son of man, (earthly saviors, spouse, kids, parents – a goal or dream) in whom there is no salvation. 4 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.**

**Our trust/confidence is not in people of this life - they are not our salvation. Not a boss, company, professor, people - but the LORD!**

**A life with more joy starts with this – don’t put your salvation in people, more specifically, the government or the economy, for the plans of men will pass.**

* **A life of praise focuses on the eternal, not the temporary**

**It is simple – but we get this backwards so often…**

**If you’re like me, most of the stress in my life is temporary - this dot on the timeline of our eternal destiny is so small.**

**The writer is telling us, you know how I can say praise God all my days (even in stressful ones) because I know this is all temporary!**

**Don’t trust in the temporary, instead - 5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, 6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever… (the LORD God of all creation is supremely in control!)**

**\*\*\* Our only sure help and hope is the LORD!**

**You can look elsewhere and try other things… but they will all have moments of disappointment and failure.**

**You can rest knowing that the Omnipotent God of all creation is able to work in your life – he is in control.**

**The LORD alone is a sure foundation and secure.**

**Matt 7:24-27 - House built on sand vs. the Rock of God, Jesus.**

**We let life get us down, and the temporary gets such a hold on us. He’s saying, remember how big and faithful God is – he is a ROCK!**

**That’s why I can shout Hallelujah! Not because I love bad things or ignore pain - I realize the maker of heaven and earth is in control!**

**Then he lists the characteristics of God that we are to focus on and live**

**7 (the LORD) executes justice for the oppressed,**

**(the LORD) who gives food to the hungry. (also, who hunger and thirst for Him)**

**The LORD sets the prisoners free; (gives freedom to the captive)**

**8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; (broken–bent over)**

**the LORD loves the righteous. (Stand for what is right)**

**9 The LORD watches over the sojourners;**

**He (the LORD) upholds the widow and the fatherless, (single mother & kids)**

**(comparison) But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. (turns upside down)**

**(Isaiah 57:21 – “There is no peace for the wicked,” says my God.)**

**They are literal and spiritual in meaning – spiritual hunger, emotional/spiritual bondage, spiritually blind – the Lord delivers.**

**These verses go deep - they hit me personally.**

**This is what the LORD has been to me and others like me.**

**This is the difference between just singing a song and living it**

**This is what the LORD has called us to look out for.**

**What is God’s heart? – This is it - this is what he is about – the poor, the oppressed, the hurting, the persecuted, and the lonely.**

**God, throughout scripture, gives his people the challenge to love what he loves – and to focus on what he focuses on.**

* **A life of praise continues Dad’s work!**

**If you have given Jesus the reigns, then we are to be about what the Father is about. (Paul – given the ministry of reconciliation - 2 Cor 5:18)**

**Micah 6:7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” (the greatest sacrifice I could give – handing my child over to God. But this is not what he is asking for) 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

* **Do justice - Righteous judgements. Do what is right.**

**Defend the innocent and those unable to defend themselves. Stand up for those unfairly used and mistreated.**

* **Love kindness - Treatment of people – showing goodness to others. Being merciful and caring to those around you.**
* **Walk humbly - To be modest and reserved with others. To walk humbly before God is to be humble before others.**

**(the final song of blessing from David to Solomon his son - I am old this is what I want you to do) Psalm 72:20 –This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse 1 - Of Solomon. Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. 2 He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. 3 The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. 4 He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.**

**This is why he wants Solomon to be powerful.**

**12 For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. 13 He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. 14 He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight. (I can’t help but hear the cries of children in the womb)**

**I want you to be a strong leader, powerful, and blessed; why? So, you can be a hero to the people, to rescue others, and rule and love with the eyes of God.**

**That is what I want for my kids – to be blessed? sss - but for what purpose… to be a healer to the hurting… to stand up for others.**

**Solomon went on to ask for wisdom… he wrote most of Proverbs… here are a few things passed down from Dad:**

**Proverbs 14: 20 - The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends. 21 He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.**

**Pr 14:31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.**

**Proverbs 19:17 - He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.**

**Pro 21:13 - If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.**

**Pro 28:27 - He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.**

**Pro 31:8 - Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."**

**Just a few of the many verses that Solomon picked up from the heart of his dad… and passed on to us - the heart of God.**

**Jesus, God on earth – after 30 years, when the time was right to start what he came to do… he went to a synagogue in his hometown.**

**Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (deliverance and salvation) 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (They were furious - it was a Messiah reference)**

**This is how he starts his ministry. He goes to the town where he was raised and reads this. This verse is about me!**

**He did not start by reading verses about his death/sacrifice. He starts with the heart of God for people.**

**The half-brother of Jesus grew up with Jesus (They wrestled – and did kid stuff - What would it take for you to believe your brother was God?)**

**After the resurrection, James became the pastor of the church in Jerusalem. He later writes “James.”**

**James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (This is not just about the lyrics, or words…) 26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. (Your words are important, but actions speak just as loud) 27 Religion (truth faith) that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

**This passage is about knowing the lyrics and moving beyond the lyrics to a lifestyle. This is a two-sided challenge: Look & live.**

1. **Side one – look out for the hurting and in need**

**“look after orphans and widows in their distress”**

1. **Side two – live differently from this world (a life that reflects Jesus)**

**“Keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”**

**The life of a Christ follower is to be missional – outward-focused**

**Poverty… the persecuted church… child armies… sex slavery… gangs… the cycle of crime and violence… cults and false religions so many have yet to know… to hear… what can you do about it?**

**Missions, outreach opportunities, speaking up, sharing Jesus, changing the world one heart at a time.**

**This is to be the song of our life – for this is the heart of God. Psalm 146:**

**7 (the LORD) executes justice for the oppressed,**

**(the LORD) who gives food to the hungry.**

**The LORD sets the prisoners free;**

**8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the LORD loves the righteous.**

**9 The LORD watches over the sojourners;**

**he (the LORD) upholds the widow and the fatherless,**

**You might think – that sounds like me…**

**Summer (3 years old) walking back to our car from a wedding – kept picking up trash. That is gross – nobody wants that. I want it. “Why?” I can make something with it. That's how God sees us and those around us who were used, abused, hurt, and neglected.**

**10 The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD! (Hallelujah!)**