

## Psalm 133 – Track 14 – The Pilgrim’s Brothers

**Get on the Bus** – *Brothers dwelled in unity this week and Tony, Don, and I shared a hotel room. I slept on a rollaway, Don on a pull out couch, and Tony... A King bed! Tony’s kind of a Diva – We were dwelling in unity, emphasis on DWELLING!*

- *I mean there is Christian fellowship when Tony walks in from his workout to see me answering emails in a towel!*
- **But what a beautiful text here that speaks to one of the deepest longings of humanity** – the need for others, the need for community – for brothers and sisters!
- **And this is a need whether you are a believer or not** – *This is why there are fraternities and sororities and clubs and so on that exist because deep within us we know that we have been created for relationships!*

**Intro** – **There is a reason for this deep longing** – **God has created us for relationship** – *In the Garden when God created the World and everything was said to be good with humanity being the pinnacle of good creation and yet only one thing was said to be lacking* – It is not good for man to be alone!

- **And there in the Garden the man and woman dwelt together in perfect harmony** – *And then sin enters the World through their disobedience and immediately the unity is threatened so much so that not even one chapter later in the Bible a brother strikes down his own brother* – Indeed we have been created for fellowship and harmony and when we have it among Christian Pilgrims it is a picture of blessing because the curse has threatened harmony in community
- *And here we have a song that praises brotherly unity among God’s people!*

**Main Idea:** *One of God’s good gifts to the Pilgrim is unity in community*

**(READ VERSE 1)** – **What a precious verse pronouncing blessing on those fortunate enough to live in unity with their brothers** – *It is good/pleasant to have brothers and sisters and to be in unity with them as God’s people* (QUICKLY!!! **BROTHERS Illustration** – **my mom must have loved this verse** – **I am one of four boys** – *Afterschool Fight* – even texting about it yesterday caused some strife but then other times we were unified we one time tried to build a time machine! Mom must have just been happy we were unified – **WHAT A GIFT UNITY AMONG THE BROTHERS IS!**)

- *Particularly in this text is the picture of Pilgrims from many different backgrounds and tribes ascending to Jerusalem for one purpose to worship the Lord!*
- **It is good and pleasant that they abide in peace with one another as true brothers with a common focus and common mission** – *And a staple of God’s people should be that they are unified*

**Why?** Because God has brought them together – *Unity can only happen when someone holds something in common and with Christians the thing we have in common is a common participation with God* – **THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE IN THE CHURCH and like with marriage what God has brought together let no man separate!**

- **The Psalmist now turns to 2 Pictures to illustrate how good unity in community is for the Pilgrim** – *with language we likely wouldn’t use today* – *How sweet is your fellowship? Well its like Beard oil and dew (I might, I might say its like when I get steak stuck in my mustache and get to enjoy it later!)*

**(READ VERSE 2-3A)** – **The Psalmist uses the imagery of the precious oil that would be poured on the Priest to consecrate him to allow him to enter the tent of meeting to go before the Lord** – *This was a special scented oil which was to only be used by the Priests and the recipe was not to be imitated*

- **This verse was of particular interest to me right now because I am wearing beard oil these days and it smells good** – *If you want to have a better understanding of the text you might come up after the service and give it a sniff and be blessed!*

- The choice of Aaron's beard here is significant as he was the first or head of the priestly clan and so it reps all the priests who would have gone before the Lord on behalf of the people – *And here we see this special scented oil is ABUNDANTLY OVERFLOWING over Aaron's impressive beard and down his robe* – that's how good brotherly unity is!

**Patrick Henry Reardon speaks to this:** *“The high priest's beard is mentioned twice in connection with this bountiful anointing, portraying the accumulated saturation for the blessing into this supreme symbol of his manhood. Indeed, Holy Scripture is very strict on this point. The priest may not shave his beard and the man who cant grow a beard cannot be a priest”* HOW ABOUT THAT QUOTE FOR NO-SHAVE NOVEMBER!

- *There is accumulated AND saturating blessing when brothers (Christians) live life together, worship together, love one another with a common mission and purpose!*

**(VERSE 3A) The blessing (or gift) of community is also likened to Dew, Overflowing Dew – *The heavy fall of dew from Mt. Hermon which is a massive mountain would be an overflowing blessing to the smaller Mt. Zion making her fruitful by providing overflowing water!***

- It gives here of both fruitfulness that comes from rain but also refreshment – *I love the text in 2 Timothy where Paul ask for God to grant mercy to the household of ONESIPHORUS, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains?*
- **Do you have an Onesiphorus?** *Some times I can remember when I WOULD HOST GG and I just didn't want anyone to come over and then they would and I would be refreshed! Let's be Onesiphoruseses!*
- **The dew blesses the land** – It is refreshing and makes her fruitful so it is with unity in the family of God!

*It is worth noting that oil running down and dew falling are using Hebrew word for descend emphasizing that this blessing is a gift coming down from God and the singers should be reflecting on this as they sing that all good gifts come from above and so it is with our life together!*

- **Bonheoffer says in his wonderful work Life Together** – *It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us... Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.*

**(READ VERSE 3B) – Ultimately God will decree this blessing as a forever blessing in the presence of God in Zion – He has decreed it for Mt. Zion (Jerusalem!)**

- *Life in an earthly Mt. Zion as the pilgrims dwelt together in unity which was good and pleasant will one day give way to the heavenly Mt. Zion (the New Jerusalem) in which we exiles, sojourners, and pilgrims will dwell together in perfect shalom*
- **Love the song we are about to sing which says:** *“Soon shall close thy earthly mission, Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days, Hope shall change to glad fruition, Faith to sight, and prayer to praise”*
- **Unity in the Christian community is a foretaste of the future – James Boice said of this:** *"some things are good for us but not pleasant. Other things are pleasant but not good. But the unity we have as God's people is both good and pleasant. It is even a bit of heaven now."*

**(QUICKLY!!!!) Two Applications:**

- 1) See the Christian Community (the LC) as the gift that She is – *This is considered a wisdom psalm and it is telling you that commitment to the people of God is for your good and to withdraw is to miss out on the blessings of God* – Sin leads to isolation and isolation to sin so please don't withdraw, Press in!

- a. **This could even mean you are not part of the people of God** – *14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. - 1 John 3:14-16*
- 2) **Be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace** – *It says of the earliest church that they DEVOTED themselves to the Fellowship (Def. Article – Membership – which is a sermon for another day!) and it had a missional effect* – So, even though this is a gift we must be eager to maintain this gift
- a. *This devotion/eagerness means more than showing up late for the service, leaving early, rarely talking to people outside your circle, doing just enough in GG and then complaining you don't have community* – Devote is an active commitment not a passive one!
- b. **Let's be part of the solution where there is lack of unity and not just an identifier of the problems** – *what this means is that once we covenant with this body we have forfeited the right to stand outside of the body as though we are separate from the body and lob bombs back in* – no we are a part and so if we have issues they are our issues to – Let's get used to using the language of "WE"
- c. **Finally, Wish Dreams are a threat to this unity** – **Bonhoeffer again:**

*The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community... If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith, and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ... the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be constantly taking its temperature. The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases.*

**Conclusion** – **This unity in community is only possible though through the power of another** – *the placement in the Psalter should not be missed as Ps. 133 follows 132 for a reason, this is an expression of blessing that will be fully realized only when the Rightful Son of David takes His place on the throne inaugurating a day in which the brothers will live together in unity forever* – We get a glimpse of the full blessing now only in the Church!

- **You see one greater than Aaron has come to Mediate God's blessings to His people** – *And this one makes unity possible because He has thrown down the accuser of our brothers at the Cross (on Mt. Zion) by suffering the fate we should have as sinners – Being utterly alone in that moment abandoned by His brothers and forsaken by His father so that we would not be abandoned or forsaken but instead brought in to His family that lives in right relationship with one another and their God!*
- **And what does the Rightful son of David now an Ex-Corpse say on that Resurrection Sunday morning to Mary** – *Go get my brothers – This kind of unity is only possible in Jesus of Nazareth who has torn down the dividing wall of hostility between the brothers and reversed the curse that has fallen upon relationships since Eden!*

**Believer** – **Lets praise God for His gift of fellowship** – *God wanted for us what He had for himself in the triune fellowship of the Godhead and He has invited us in to that through the gospel* – Lets be eager to maintain it because BILLIONS OF YEARS from now we will still be brothers!

- **And let's remind ourselves that what we have now in our lives together is just glimpse** – *When we stay in hotel rooms together in unity and have meals together, and sing together, and laugh together,*

*it is a foretaste of where he is taking us – To a New Mt. Zion in which there will be no more Cain's... soon shall pass our Pilgrim days and we will be home and it will be pleasant!*

Pray – Father what a gift Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers...