

Psalms 144
Recognizing Our Own Shadow

*"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while,
you could miss it"* -Ferris Bueller

1. This is Who The LORD is 1,2

A. Unmovable Protector

"For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?— the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless. He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your gentleness made me great." -Psalm 18:31-35 ESV

B. Trains for the Battle 1

-Personal interaction from a Personal God

2. This is who I am 3,4

A. The Question a Second Time

"what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" -Psalm 8:4 ESV

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." -Genesis 1:26-27 ESV

B. Humanity By Nature is Fragile

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night." Psalm 90:1-4 ESV

"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." - Psalm 90:12 ESV

Counting the days or making the days count.

"Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." -James 4:13-14 ESV

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies." 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 ESV

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket-safe, dark, motionless, airless-it will change. It will not be broken; it will become untreatable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell." CS Lewis, *The Four Loves*

"We would rather live with insecurity in ourselves than vulnerability with God"

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**" -Philippians 2:5-8 ESV

"A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Isaiah 40:6-8 ESV

3. Prayer and Blessing 5-15

A. A Personal Request for the LORD to appear 5-8

B. A New Song of Praise

C. A Plea for blessing 12-15

““And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field...” -Deuteronomy 28:1-14 ESV

Going back to verses 3, 4

”All of Jesus for All the World”

““For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.””

John 3:16-21 ESV

Jesus submitted Himself to the vulnerability of human life.

Reflection:

When you think about how fragile human life is, how does that direct your thoughts and feelings toward God?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Psalm 18:31-35. Who is God according to these verses and what does He do for the Psalmist?

Tuesday: Psalm 8. Give yourself some time just to reflect on what this Psalm says about the nature of God and who you are as a human being?

Wednesday: Psalm 90:1-4. What has God done according to this Psalm and what are humans in comparison?

Thursday: Psalm 90:12. How are you making today count?

Friday: Philippians 2:5-8. Describe the vulnerability of Jesus according to these verses? How does He identify with you and what do these verses call us to?

Saturday: John 3:16-21. What is the promise to humans who put their trust in Jesus? How does this deal with our greatest vulnerability and how short life is?