

Making the Heart Glad
Trinity Sunday 20A Acts 2:14a, 22-36
June 7, 2020

When you hear the phrase, “Making the heart glad”, what comes to mind for you? What makes your heart glad?

We might look to Adam and what made his heart glad. He was alone. There were the other couples. Couples of cows, birds, bears and dinosaurs but he didn’t have his complement. God could see it and He had one last creation, a woman, not spoke into existence, not even a creation from the dirt of the ground but from the man himself, one of his ribs, one of those bones that protects the heart from physical injury. God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam. From a rib, He formed Eve. Can you imagine what Adam thought when he caught the first glimpse of Eve? Here is what he said, **Gen. 2:23** Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” “At last”, is how Adam put it. You don’t use those words together unless there had been some let downs in the past.

God brought all those animals before Adam to see how he would name them. He didn’t know when God would show up with the one for him. Did he wonder what she would look like as he looked over the varied animals, some where the female was not as colorful as in the case of some birds or maybe a little smaller, shaped a little differently in the case of many mammals or maybe the other way around where the female was larger. He must have wondered how God would surprise him.

Yes, Adam’s heart must have been so glad that she wasn’t just some creation but a creation that was part of himself. I think Adam’s heart must have been glad.

What makes YOUR heart glad? Some say a woman, some may say a couple glasses of wine. Some might say a great meal. Others may say a quiver full of children. There are so many things that could make a heart glad, maybe even a herd of cattle in great condition with grass up to their bellies as they graze.

We are blessed by so many things that make our hearts glad. But what makes the heart of David glad? We know there were times when his heart wasn’t glad as when a son tried to usurp his throne or when the son born to him, died or when so many lost their lives on his account. But what does Peter point to as the reason David’s heart

was glad? It wasn't the time David came dancing into Jerusalem with the ark. No, Peter points to a Psalm of David, Psalm 16 (8-11). How does it read? **Psa. 16:8-11** I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your Holy One see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

David knew the Lord had always been with him, watching over him. He knew it was the Lord that brought about those great outcomes in those battles, especially the one where he took on the giant with a sling and a few small stones. He knew that even if he sinned, the Lord was there with the Holy Spirit to convict but also to trust that the Lord was forgiving and had promised him that the heir to come was to be from his line. He knew he wasn't perfect. He knew he sinned but He also knew that the Lord was a loving God, who did not go back on His promises contrary to mankind.

David's heart was glad. He had God watching over him, over his life and future. With God watching over him, he could look over his life with gladness, knowing what befell others who didn't trust in the Lord. He knew something others didn't. He knew with the Lord, life, even if it might be short was a life of joy, of gladness.

David was glad, his tongue proclaimed it as we see in this Psalm and others. David knew the Lord had directed his life and one day his soul would be with the Lord. David knew of the promised Messiah. He knew that He would come to save and would not fail living out His life to God. Even though David doesn't mention the name of Jesus, he describes who He is and the position He would attain in His exaltation.

Peter makes known the people there that day that Jesus was the one David was talking about. They knew about David, the good, the bad and the ugly. They also knew that the Messiah would come from his line. They also found out, the one they sent to the cross was none other than their Messiah, their Savior. They also found out that even now, He had ascended to heaven, not abandoned to Hades as they might think of one who was hung on a tree, on a cross. Yes, He, Jesus didn't stay dead but rose from the grave before His body could decay and smell like Lazarus' body should have smelled. No, Jesus was the firstborn of the dead, the first of all who would raise from death to life forever in heaven with the Father.

What went through their minds? What was felt in their hearts? Did they, right then have hearts of gladness? I don't think so. They saw themselves on the wrong side of God. They were responsible for the death of their long looked for Savior. They had killed the goose that laid the golden egg. So what were they to do? Verse 37 of this passage says "they were cut to their hearts." Not hearts of gladness but hearts, cut, hurt, wondering as they said: "Brothers, what are we to do?" **Acts 2:38-41** And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Their salvation, their faith didn't rest in the sacrifice of bulls or goats but in repentance, sorrow over their sin, even of murder, with the hope of forgiveness by the very one they sent to the cross, the one David looked to.

David had a heart of gladness as he thought of how the Lord had worked in his life. What more could he want than the promise that he would be with the Lord forever, even after he had taken his last breath. David looked forward to His Savior coming and delivering him and all who would be given faith. He looked forward and as Peter knew what David knew, he too, one who had denied he even knew Jesus, not once, not twice but three times, would rise to be with Jesus on the last day.

Peter gave hope to the people that day. His heart of gladness knowing he was going to heaven in the end was told to those he was speaking to. He told of what they should have known, that the Savior Jesus, the one they had killed, God has made Him both Lord and Christ.

One moment, so down hearted and the next with the antidote in hand, hearts of gladness. I imagine they probably wondered how this could be. Forgiveness in their grasp as they acknowledged their sin and trusted in God. Could it be that they too could have that gladness as David did? You know the devil was right there trying to get them to thinking that God couldn't forgive them. Can't you imagine him saying how silly it is to trust in God's forgiveness when He had destroyed so many people over the years. We can imagine his lying to them, trying to lead them away from God, pointing

out life ahead and how it was going to be tough, days of sadness and of a God who surely couldn't forgive.

The devil will try tactics like that. He will point to tough days ahead and then offer up that vision glorious, where the desires of a person's heart can be provided for by sex, food, drink, power, money and any other thing of this world that promises to make the heart glad, but so many times falls very short.

They are false promises as David knew. He had it all but he knew where the truth lay, in God his Savior, the Holy One, Jesus.

We have the accounts of David, good and bad. We get to read of David as he went about his life and how the Lord worked in his life to bring him, in faith to his witness to those of his day and Peter to those in his day and to us in our day.

This Trinity Sunday, we look at the three persons of the Trinity as they have worked in creation and in us. We need God in our lives for all He does for us. We know what awaits us when He comes again to make our dead bodies alive, alive to live with Him forever.

Our hearts are glad, glad, that our future is secure in Him. David had that heart knowing He wouldn't be abandoned but would find himself with God. We have that same heart of gladness today. We may have things in our lives we aren't proud of, in fact are full of shame over and yet when we look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despised the shame. We have glad hearts as He is the one who paid for our lives with His shed blood and pierced body.

What about our gladness of heart? Could it be used, be described, to be lived out for others to hear about, to see, to desire for themselves? Might we hear those words, "I want what you have got" or "what is it that is different about you?"

What makes your heart glad? Is it the things of the world, yes provided by God but so abused by so many or is it the one thing that is going to live past this life, life lived bodily in heaven with Him?

So many think that the gladness of heart can be fully fulfilled in this life but this life is temporary. Yes, there is gladness but it isn't permanent like the gladness provided by Jesus. David knew that. Peter knew that as he told those of his day of that gladness. We too, this Trinity Sunday trust in the Triune God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit who was sent for us and who lives in us, so we can have hearts of gladness for

what Jesus has done for us. May the Holy Spirit inspire us to go forth in gladness to our world, the world Jesus provides for us.