

If Only You Would Hear

Psalm 81:1-16

Halifax: February 8, 2009

Introduction

As most of you know,

- last week I concluded our sermon series from Ephesians.
 - We were in Ephesians for almost a year and a half...
 - And before that, we were several years in Matthew.

In planning where to go next, I concluded that Isaiah would be a good place for us to go.

- It is a book that has very much to say to us in our present situation as the heirs of the protestant reformation.
 - Like us, the Israel of Isaiah's day was living under the benefits of the glorious heritage they had from their forefathers...
 - After the dark period of the judges, the Lord had raised up David, a man after His own heart to govern them.
 - His promises and blessing had been renewed to them in those glorious days of faithfulness...
 - and they had enjoyed days of tremendous prosperity and unparalleled blessing!
 - Even though it was three centuries later, they were still enjoying the residue of the blessing that had been brought to them in those days.
 - Yet, they were not grateful.
 - They had grown cold and barren in their hearts toward the Lord.
 - They had turned from God's worship to idols.
 - They had engaged in empty worship that was not according to His commands...
 - And so now they were under the threat of God's judgement.
 - He was raising up enemies—and in time would deliver them over into those enemies' hands!
 - They needed to repent, and Isaiah was sent to call them to do just that...
 - and to hold out to them the sure promises of God that had been given to them through Moses and renewed to them under David.

- Surely you can see that we stand in a very similar place today in western Christendom...
 - God richly blessed our fathers in the protestant reformation.
 - He restored His truth to them and gave them tremendous prosperity.
 - But now for several generations, we have been squandering our inheritance...
 - What our fathers laid up for us, we are systematically destroying.
 - We have been ungrateful...
 - Our worship is perverted,
 - The gospel is being taken from us.
 - God's judgment threatens us if we do not repent and turn back to Him.
 - We find ourselves reduced to a smaller and smaller remnant.
 - The book of Isaiah addresses the entire nation,
 - but Isaiah is told that the entire nation will not respond...
 - Nevertheless, he is also told that He will reserve a remnant...
 - To them, Isaiah's message will be effective...
 - The warnings will be used to preserve them...
 - And the promises will bring comfort to them and preserve them in the assurance of faith—
 - that the Lord still has a glorious plan for His church.

This is the encouragement we need as those who are serving God in Halifax, Nova Scotia in the year of our Lord 2009!

Next week, we will begin in Isaiah chapter 1.

- But before we begin I want to introduce you to a Psalm of Focus.
 - As has been our tradition for years now,
 - I will preach to you from a Psalm that is related to the next segment in our regular sermon series...
 - Today you will hear a sermon from this Psalm, and then over the next few weeks we will sing this Psalm to go along with our sermon series.

The Psalm I have chosen is the one I read a moment ago—Psalm 81.

- This Psalm addresses the very problems that Isaiah addresses...
 - It speaks of a people who have been richly blessed,

- but have forgotten that the Lord is the One who has blessed them!
- It is a gracious call to remember what God has done with heartfelt gratitude,
 - and to serve Him with confidence that those He afflict us, yet He will bless us if we will continue in His grace.

We will look at two main things—

- First, at how grateful we should be for His extreme kindness to us...
- Secondly, at how He pleads with us to continue in His kindness—to continue to look to Him for our blessing...

Let's get on with it then...first...

I. How grateful we ought to be for the Lord's extreme kindness to us!

A. You see that the Psalm opens with a call to praise Him...

1. Every time we sing it in our assembly, we are admonishing one another to praise our God with exuberance...
 - The words are:
 - “Sing aloud to God our strength;
Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob
Raise a song and strike the timbrel,
The pleasant harp with the lute...
Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon,
At the full moon, on our solemn feast day.”
 - These are the words that God has given us to sing to one another as a much needed encouragement to gratitude!
2. I want you to notice several things about this call to praise...
 - a. First, that the singing is to be exuberant...
 - 1) It does not say, “mutter something to God,” but **sing aloud to God!**
 - Muttering does not honour Him!
 - Joyful shouts honour Him!
 - 2) Not the kind of shouting that we have at a ball game...
 - where everyone hoops and hollers...
 - But a covenantal, congregational shout!
 - A shout in unison where we lift up our voices together in exuberant songs of praise.

- The singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with grace in our hearts.
- 3) I have to say that it saddens me when I see some of you very half-heartedly singing God's praises—and sometimes not singing at all!
- In charity, I like to assume that you must have a cold and be unable to raise your voice...
 - but if that is not the case with you and you are redeemed in Jesus Christ...
 - It is not fitting for you to keep silence before the God who is your strength and who has done so much for you!
 - Must the Lord employ the stones to praise Him because the redeemed refuse to do it?
 - God forbid!
- b. Secondly, I want you see that your singing is to be accompanied—
- 1) Here we have mentioned the harp and the timbrel and the lute and the trumpet!
- These were all employed by the Levites in the worship of God's people in the Old Testament...
 - Calvin says:
 - With respect to the *tabret, harp, and psaltery*, we have formerly observed, and will find it necessary afterwards to repeat the same remark, that the Levites, under the Law, were justified in making use of instrumental music in the worship of God; it having been His will to train his people, while they were as yet tender and like children, by such rudiments, until the coming of Christ. But now when the clear light of the gospel has dissipated the shadows of the law, and taught us that God is to be served in a simpler form, it would be to act a foolish and mistaken part to imitate that which the prophet enjoined only upon those of his own time.
- 2) Indeed, in New Testament worship, now that we no longer have the Levites and the shadows or the temple,
- we are exhorted to accompany our praises by plucking the strings of our hearts...
 - as we recently learned about from Ephesians 5:19.
 - If you were not here and want to learn more about this, I would encourage you to listen to that sermon.

- But the point is, when we sing of the instruments of the old covenant that were part of the Levitical service,
 - We are to know that for us it is a call to accompany our singing with hearts that are fully engaged...
 - Now that Christ has come, we do not need carnal instruments to stir up our affections...
 - We have the substance, even Christ crucified.
 - It is the simple, unaccompanied, fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name accompanied by a joyful and sincere heart.
- And I say, this is also a huge challenge for us!
 - It is so easy to sing without the accompaniment of our hearts...
 - To sing loudly with a disengaged heart...
 - It is so easy to make a joyful sound when the heart is far way.
 - We are going to see in Isaiah that the Lord grows sick of that kind of worship...
 - He calls it drawing near with the lips when the heart is far away...
 - So you must see to it that both heart and mouth are engaged!
 - It is God you stand before in the assembly!
 - It is God your strength you are to honour in your song!

B. You need to realise that this is something He ordained for us when He saved us!

1. All that we do in worship,
 - assembling ourselves together,
 - praying to Him,
 - confessing our faith,
 - singing praises,
 - coming to the Lord's Supper, and hearing His Word...
 - is not something we just came up with as a nice idea!
 - No! No!
 - It is the Lord's command for us!
 - It is something He has enjoined.
 - Look at verse 4...
 - It says,

- Psalm 81:4: For this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob. This He established in Joseph as a testimony when He went throughout the land of Egypt.
 - You see brothers and sisters,
 - It is the worship of God that He has ordained that we are to bring!
 - For Israel, trumpets were to be blown at the beginning of each month—at the new moon on the lunar calendar...
 - And in this Psalm,
 - It is probably referring to the first day of the seventh month in particular when they blew the trumpets all day...
 - to commemorate the call of God upon them to be His people!
 - At the beginning of every month,
 - and especially at the beginning of the seventh month,
 - Israel was reminded that God had called them to be His own by the blowing of these trumpets.
 - It was His ordinance.
2. In verses 6 & 7 you can see that they were to remember how the Lord had taken them to be His own people...
- a. You see in verse 6 how he speaks of removing them from the oppressive service they had in Egypt...
- He says,
 - v. 6 “I removed his shoulder from the burden; and His hands were freed from the baskets!”
 - Don’t you love the way the Bible says these things—
 - not, “I removed you from oppression and toilsome service...
 - but “I removed your shoulder from the burden and your hands from the baskets...”
 - This refers to the things they used in their service of making bricks for the Egyptians.
 - God delivered them from that service in order that they might serve Him...
 - In order that they might be His people and know His salvation and blessing.
 - He had shown Himself to be their strength by delivering them

- b. In verse 7, there are three things that God does when we are His people...
- These three things are to be at the heart of our worship...
 - They are described with reference to Israel, but are easily understood in application to us as the new Israel...
- 1) First, there is His deliverance in answer to our call...
- Israel had groaned under their bondage.
 - They could not escape from it.
 - Pharaoh is a picture of Satan...
 - While under his oppression we were unable to serve the Lord.
 - We were in bondage to sin and death...
 - And though we served hard, we never got anything worthwhile for it.
 - But God has graciously delivered us in Jesus Christ!
 - He is our Passover who took all the punishment that we deserved so that we might be set free to serve our God.
 - And it is by His mighty hand, when we are united to Him, that we are able to serve God now.
 - We are a new creation in Jesus Christ.
 - The Lord is our strength and each week we praise Him for it.
- 2) Second, God says that He answered them in the secret place of thunder.
- This likely refers to Sinai where God established His covenant with His people.
 - Having redeemed them, He then established His covenant with them to be their God and to have them as His people.
 - At Sinai, He gave them His law,
 - consisting of two things:
 - the Ten Commandments and
 - the ordinances of His worship.
 - The Ten Commandments were the rules of His house now that they were redeemed to be His people...
 - They are given to those who are redeemed to show us how God wants us to live in His house...

- to love Him with all our heart and our neighbour as ourselves.
- And the ordinances of His worship were given to teach them to constantly look to His redeeming grace...
 - The temple and all its service with all the feasts and the sacrifices were designed to show them the mercy of God who pardoned them and strengthened them by the blood of the covenant.
- Now that Christ has come,
 - We still have the Ten Commandments... for God's moral standards do not change...
 - As the redeemed of the Lord, we are still to love Him with all our heart and to love our neighbour as ourselves.
 - These are still the rules of His house.
 - But now that Jesus has come, the ordinances of worship are changed...
 - In place of the service of the temple and the feast days that presented Christ and His saving work in shadows...
 - We have the clear declaration of the gospel—
 - We now declare what He has done in order that we may also rest in the blood of the covenant.
 - We have the privilege of seeing just what the Lord had purposed from all eternity to do in order to save us...
 - Each Lord's Day,
 - we are called to gather together to remember what Christ has done...
 - to hear it declared in the preaching of the gospel,
 - and to praise God for it in our songs,
 - to give thanks and remember at the Lord's Table,
 - and to call upon God in His name for blessing.

TRANS> So you see that we are to be grateful to God in our worship first of all...

- because He redeemed us from bondage when we cried out to Him...
- and secondly, because He, in taking us to be His own, has given us His instructions—the Ten Commandments and the Ordinances of Worship...

- 3) And then thirdly, you should be grateful because He tests you...
 - In verse 7 He says, “I tested you at the waters of Meribah.
 - a. This is a sure sign of the Lord’s great love for us!
 - For the ones He loves, He chastens...
 - He tests us to see if we have truly been reconciled to Him or if we are just going along for the ride with His people.
 - He does this in order that we might be awakened if we are not truly following Him.
 - He always does this for all His sons and daughters...
 - He tested Noah, He tested Abraham, He tested Jacob, He tested Joseph, He tested David—
 - The list goes on and on...
 - He tests every son He receives in order that He might refine our love for Him...
 - We need such testing.
- b. Israel was twice at the waters of Meribah, and on both occasions they did not prove themselves faithful...
 - They fell to grumbling and were shown that their relationship with God needed to be refined...
 - For the elect, their love for God was refined...
 - but the hypocrites were hardened.

TRANS> So you see, all of this is what the Lord does for you when He takes you to be His people...

- It is His extreme kindness to take a people who are just as lost and just as rebellious as all the rest and to come to them to redeem them to be His own!
 - That is what God did for Israel, and that is what He has done for you who are called today as part of the visible church.
 - You are to respond to Him with grateful praise as He has commanded you!
 - You are to remember your redeemer and to give thanks to Him each Lord’s Day as He has appointed.
- Oh brothers and sisters, having seen how you ought to praise Him for His kindness,
 - I now want you to see secondly...

II. How the LORD pleads with you to continue in His kindness in verses 8-16.

A. In these verses, He comes to you as a tender, passionate, loving Father to plead with you to continue in His kindness...

- to continue looking to Him as your God and your happiness!

1. Look at how He pleads!

a. In verse 8, He says,

- Psa 81:8: "Hear O my people and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me!"
- And then in verse 9-10 He reminds them that He is their God and that they are not to have any foreign God.
 - He is the One who redeemed them!
 - Brothers and sisters,
 - He is the one who sent His Son to die on the cross for your sins!
 - What other God are you now going to serve?
 - He is the One who took you into His house and gave you His law, even writing it on your heart by His Spirit!
 - He is the One who tests you as His own child and who teaches you...
 - He is the One who has promised you a full inheritance—who tells you to open your mouth wide and He will fill it!

b. You see how there is a kind of pleading here...

- There is an eagerness in His words—
 - "O my people—O Israel—if you will listen to Me!"
- And this same sort of pleading is repeated again in verse 13...
 - He says,
 - Ps 81:13: "Oh, that my people would listen to Me, O that Israel would walk I my ways."
 - You see that there is a yearning for them—
 - He has all these blessings that He is yearning to pour out on His people if only they will look to Him!

2. It is remarkable that the Lord of heaven should present Himself to us in this way!

a. There are some who struggle with these verses and try to explain them away,

- but we see this in our dear Lord Jesus,

- In Matthew 23,
 - we read this morning how He laments over Jerusalem...
 - Matt 23:37: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!
 - There is a burning desire to bless them and He makes that desire known to us to move us to Him!
- b. My brothers and sisters, there is nothing to explain away here...
- It is this very compassion that caused our Lord Jesus to leave the glory of heaven and come down to this sinful world to die for our sins...
 - He yearned for us...so He came to us!
 - He yearns for us to see the glory of the Father He loves...
 - He yearns to see us who were made in His image and chosen by Him restored to the beauty in which we were created...
 - He and His Father and the blessed Holy Spirit yearn for us and this plaintive call is but an expression of His yearning love.
 - Do not despise it.
 - It is His revelation to us of His desire for us to come to Him and to continue in Him.
 - It is a divine love that is so great that we cannot understand it,
 - but it more real than any mere creaturely love that we have known...
 - It is far more—it is wonderful!

TRANS> It is remarkable that He should love sinners like us so much that He should plead with us...

3. And it is remarkable that He should need to do this.
- It is remarkable that we are still such sinners that even after we have learned of His salvation and experienced His salvation,
 - we are still so obstinate and so hardened that our Saviour finds it necessary to plead with us that we would be loyal to Him and to continue to serve Him as our God...
 - What patience He has with us to bear so long with us!
 - What love and condescension!

- B. And now I want you to see the reasons He presents to you for continuing with Him.
1. First, He shows you the horrible injustice of rejecting Him.
 - a. This is brought out in verse 9 and 10 where He says that we should not worship any foreign God because He is the Our Lord and our God and our Redeemer.
 - This is just like the preface to the Ten Commandments long with the first commandment in Exodus 20...
 - In the preface to the Ten Commandments, the Lord says,
 - Exodus 20:2: "I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
 - And then the first commandment follows in verse 3:
 - Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."
 - The preface gives you the reason you ought to obey Him—
 - because He is the Lord your God who redeemed you...
 - And then the commandments follow.
 - Here, in Psalm 81, the same elements are included... only reversed...
 - First there is the command to have no other God in v. 9...
 - Then there is the reason in v. 10...
 - because:
 - "I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the Land of Egypt."
 - b. With these words, He shows us how dreadfully unjust it would be for us to turn to other gods...
 - 1) First because He is the LORD.
 - When our English Bibles refer to Him as LORD in all capitals, it tells us that the Hebrew name used here is Yahweh or Jehovah.
 - That is God's covenant name that means "I am that I am."
 - It speaks of Him as the One who is self existing...
 - He is the fountain of all other existence...
 - He alone has existence in Himself.
 - As such, He is the only true God and we are duly obliged to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength...
 - And it is a monstrous wickedness for us to worship any other as God.

- He alone is the true God and so is deserving of our allegiance.
 - Even before He has redeemed us we have this obligation to Him because He is Jehovah.
 - I only wish we could grasp the hundredth part of what a gross injustice it is to not worship Him alone as God!
 - even if He had never redeemed us!

2) But our obligations are much greater because He has redeemed us.

- Because of our sin, this great God had rejected us and cast us from His presence with all of mankind...
 - But in His incredible mercy, He came to us to redeem us.
 - And now, He says to those who were once outcasts that He is our God and redeemer!
 - “I am the Lord your God who brought you out...”
- This God, who was justly offended with us for our sins and had condemned us in perfect justice...
 - now calls Himself **our God**...
 - calls Himself our own God and calls us His people because He has redeemed us...
 - And you know what He had to do to redeem us!
 - He had to send His only Son to shed His blood.

3) Now I say!

- If it is a horrendous thing that we did not serve this God because He is the only true God,
 - How much more horrendous is it if we do not serve Him and continue in Him now that He has redeemed us at so great a cost.
 - Now that He has presented Himself to us as a merciful Saviour!
 - It is unspeakable wickedness—
 - It is a grave injustice!
- In verse 11, the horrendous nature of this apostasy from God is highlighted!
 - The Lord says:
 - Ps 81:11: "But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me.
 - **My people!**

- The very ones He has redeemed and called to be his own!
 - All this and they will not listen to Him...
 - All this and they will have none of Him!
- What horrible words!
 - This is not just ignorance, but contempt!
 - His word is near, but they won't have it...
- The apostate's problem is not so much ignorance of God as it is hatred of Him!
 - He knows the truth, He knows what the Lord had done...
 - And still He rejects it!
 - It would have been better if he had never known than have known to have rejected!
- Someone may say, but how is He the redeemer of those who reject Him?
 - That is a good question...
 - But you see, He calls Himself the redeemer of all who are in the visible Church...
 - because he is offered to them!
 - And though they be baptised as children, they are counted covenant breakers if they do not continue in His grace.
 - Take heed all you covenant children—all you covenant people!
 - Do not trample underfoot the blood of the covenant by which you have been sanctified!
 - It is a horrendous thing!
 - It is a crime the proportions of which are without parallel!

TRANS> This brings us to the next reason He presents to show us why we ought to continue in Him.

2. Secondly, He shows you the horrible consequences of our rejection.
 - a. This is stated in verse 11-12 as what He actually did to many of His people who would not listen or have Him as their God...
 - It is a punishment from Him.

- Ps 81:11-12: But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me. So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels.
- b. Now at first this may not sound like such a bad thing.
- He doesn't say He made them sick or brought famine upon them or raised up their foes to fight against them...or even that He delivered them over to Satan.
 - He just gives them freedom to go their own way.
- c. But my friends, this is the very worst thing that could ever happen to you!
- This is to have the Lord withdraw His protecting and guiding hand from you—
 - to leave you to go in your own way without checking you—
 - to cease to chasten you or defend you—
 - to leave you to become hardened and embittered and consumed by your own wickedness.
 - It would be better to be given up to lions than to your heart's lusts!
 - If God delivers you over to Satan or to famine or to sickness,
 - it may be remedial...
 - He may do it in love to correct you...
 - But when He abandons you to your own way,
 - He is delivering you over to destruction without any remedy.
 - He takes away sound doctrine and leave you to wonder away into all sort of error according to your own perverse imagination.
 - How many churches there are that have had their lampstand taken away so that they now walk in their own ways...
 - cut off from God's word.
 - It is a fearful punishment!
 - This is not something to trifle with!

TRANS> He has much better things for you if you will but continue in Him...

3. Third, He tells you how your enemies will be subdued if you will follow Him.
- If you will but continue in His covenant, listening to Him and walking in His ways,

- He promises that He will soon subdue your enemies and turn His hand against your adversaries.
- You see that in verse 14.
 - It is wonderful news:
 - “I would soon subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their adversaries.
 - All He has to do is turn His hand against them and they melt before Him,
 - They pretend submission to Him in fear...
 - They are brought into a state of whipped puppishness...
 - They are no longer bold against the Lord and His ways but shiver away into silence and fear.
- Brothers and sisters, we need to realise what the problem is today when our enemies are so brazen—and unafraid to speak open blasphemies!
 - And when our efforts at evangelism seem to be so feeble...
 - Has the Lord not commanded us and empowered us to make disciples of all the nations?
 - To have the nations turn to serve the Lord—with at least outward obedience?
- Here is the problem...
 - It is not that we have used the wrong techniques in evangelism...
 - It is not even that we have not done enough evangelism.
 - The big problem is that we have not listened to the Lord and continued to walk in His ways.
 - It is our own fault that our enemies are strong and we are weak.
- This principle holds for us as individuals as well as corporately as Christians in our own nation...
 - National sin or disobedience is the thing that retards national deliverance.
 - God sends enemies against us for our ungodliness.
 - It is not a matter of methods or techniques or military power...
 - It is a matter of obedience and whether the Lord is defending us and protecting us.
 - If we are not walking with Him by faith, we cannot expect to see His hand of deliverance.

- As individuals, when we are not walking with Lord, listening to Him and looking to Him as our God,
 - we will be plagued with doubts and fears that God would have slain long ago if we had been faithful...
 - We will be assailed by Satan and by our own lusts as weak and powerless against them...
 - We will be terrified by the world and unable to refute them and show them their folly...

- And look at what it says at the end of verse 15 regarding our enemies...
 - “But their fate would endure forever...”
 - Their ascendancy would be brought to an end and we would experience life under the reign of Jesus Christ!
 - God has called us to take the world for Christ!
 - He has promised that Christ will reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet!
 - He is prepared to subdue them...
 - but not until the church is ready...
 - not until we are where we ought to be...

- It is exactly as it was with Israel of old...
 - The promise was always there to give them ascendancy in the Land of promise...
 - And such ascendancy they had when they followed Him...
 - but when they did not, their enemies came forth in number and strength against them.
 - In the early days of Christendom, there was a great battle to be fought,
 - but as the church continued in Christ, the day came when she was given the ascendancy and her enemies melted away in fear...
 - This is the way it ought to be all over the world...
 - and the way it would be if we would but turn to the Lord and follow Him!
 - It is all our own fault...
 - If we would only turn to the Lord, ten thousand enemies that afflict us now would be quickly subdued.
 - If only we would listen to the Lord and walk in His ways!

TRANS> But that is still not all...

- There is yet one more reason the Lord gives as to why we should serve Him...
4. Fourthly, if you will serve Him, you will know the fullness of His blessing!
- a. In verse 16, He goes on to say that He would have fed us also with the finest of wheat and with honey from the rock.
 - He loves to pour out rich blessings on His people!
 - He has more to give us than we can contain!
 - He is neither stingy nor impotent, but mighty to bless us beyond all that we can ask or think.
 - The wheat speaks of our necessities and the honey of the things that make life sweet—beyond the necessities!
 - b. It is a shameful thing that Israel so often suffered famine and distress in the land of promised abundance!
 - It was not because of God's unwillingness or inability to bless them...
 - It was because of their refusal to follow Him and to seek the blessing that He had for them!
 - His grace would have continued to flow like a never ceasing fountain if it had not been interrupted by their perverseness and wickedness...
 - c. Is it not so with us today?
 - What if you were to crave the best gifts that God has promised?
 - What if you were to open your mouth wide (as it says in verse 10)
 - Would the God who delivered you from sin and Satan not be most pleased to fill it?
 - Would He withhold good from those to whom it was not too much to provide His only Son as their redeemer?
 - Would He who spared not His only Son not freely give you all things?
 - If you were to ask Him to pour out His grace on you to make you more godly and more holy...
 - If you were to ask Him to show you the depths and the height of His love...
 - If you were to ask Him to give you holiness, peace and assurance...
 - a greater sense of His pardoning mercy...
 - to make you a more loving husband or wife...

- do you think He would be reluctant to do these things?
- If you do not open your mouth to Him...
 - If you are rather seeking the after your own lusts...
 - of if you are just loping along as one half dead...
 - is it any surprised if His blessings are slender and few?
 - That your life is not overflowing with grace and abundance?

Conclusion:

My brothers and sisters,

- If only you would hear Him!
 - If only you would walk in His ways!
 - How happy and how blessed you would be.