

Heart Matters – Faith that stands firm

Psalm 86 and 1 Kings 16: 29 – 33

1. Guard my life, for I am devoted to you
 - I am poor and needy
 - Have mercy on me
 - i. ‘The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?’
 - I call to you all day long
 - Faith stands firm when we know we need help!
 - Faith stands firm when we find Joy in the Lord more than what he has created.
2. In the day of my trouble I will call to you
 - You are forgiving and good
 - Abounding in love
 - You alone are God
 - Faith stands firm when we remember who God is and trust Him
 - For you will answer me
3. Israel’s dark days 1 Kings 12: 28; 1 Kings 16: 29 - 33
 - It is too much for you to go to Jerusalem
 - Here are your gods who brought you out of Egypt
 - Ahab, did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him
 - Jezebel, daughter of the King of Sidon
 - Baal worship brought to Israel. Baal – god who controls nature!
4. Teach me your way, O Lord Psalm 86 11 – 17
 - Give me an undivided heart
 - Grant your strength to your servant
 - Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame.

Digging Deeper

Read Psalm 86 1 - 10

1. What attitudes is David expressing in verses 1 – 4? How will these help us to stand firm in our faith?
2. In verses 5 – 10 David reminds himself of God's character. What are these? How do we develop the discipline of remembering so that we are moulded by God's character rather than the world around us?

Read 1 Kings 12: 25 – 33; 1 Kings 16:29 -33

1. Jereboam was the first king of the breakaway 10 tribes that are known as Israel. Rehoboam was King of Judah whose capital was Jerusalem. The site of the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant. What lay behind Jereboam's decision to establish centres of worship away from Jerusalem?
2. What attitudes did Jereboam use to encourage the people to worship the two golden calves?
3. In 1 Kings 16: 29 – 33, 6 Kings later we read about King Ahab. There has been a continual separation from God and his word. In what ways were the people as well as the Kings responsible?

Read Psalm 86: 11 – 17

1. David knows God and has probably walked with him for many years before he writes this Psalm. He still asks God to teach him his way. He recognises that a faith that stands firm cannot be taken for granted. Where are the foundations for your faith?
2. David asks for an undivided heart and strength. It would seem from this that faith that stands firm is not easy or certain. How does this make you feel and what helps us stand firm?
3. In verse 17 David has a concern that his enemies might see God's goodness through a sign. What signs could we ask God for that would help the people of Paulsgrove see God's goodness?