

## A Sermon about Trusting God

- This is sermon re trusting God. Trust in something = believe in, have confidence/faith in; internal reliance/assurance; sure about; convinced; take stand on it; confident whatever trusting won't let you down. That's trust. This is sermon re trusting God because Ps 146 is sermon re trusting God. Don't worry: I know all Christians, all trust God. So when hear **vs. 1-2**, we say "Yes, agree, me. I do that. I trust; as result, I praise." How works: first trust, then naturally praise. So as Christians, we say, "**Vs. 2** because I trust in him."
- But remember what happened in Sunday's Gospel, for this week, heard few days ago? JB in prison; arrested, sitting in some dark prison. Same JB that baptized Jesus, saw heaven opened, heard voice of God; called Jesus Lamb of God. John even knew he was fulfillment Isa 40, voice calling wilderness prepare way Lord. Knew him! Had very imp role to play in God's plan salvation. So in mind: "Why am I in prison? What good serve? I understand: have cross to bear. But why God allow this to happen to me? Why in this situation?" So (from Gospel) John "**sent his disciples to ask [Jesus], 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'**" (Mt 11:2-3). John began to doubt. The forerunner of Savior began to doubt God. Needed sermon re trusting God.
- If can happen to him, certainly can to us. I quite think it does. Often say/think: "Why this happening to me? What good serve? I understand: have cross to bear. But why God allow this (you fill in this with whatever) happen me? Why in this situation?" Mind quickly goes from: bad thing; God said cares; doesn't look like; degenerate into doubt. Not trivializing things that trigger this doubt, any more than trivializing John being in prison. Many among us hurting right now; many you in pain; various reasons, some well-known, some careful to keep private. But we are hurting; when hurt, doubt God. John did; we do, too. Need sermon re trusting God.
- Ps 146 is sermon re trusting God; short little sermon that starts "I'll praise because I trust." Then warns, **vs. 3-4**. Hymn: "*Trust not in princes, they are but mortal; earthborn they are and soon decay. Vain are their counsels at life's last portal when the dark grave will claim its prey*" (CW 235). Tendency to transfer trust off God onto whatever think will help us. Don't always recognize that as doubting God; but anytime we shift/transfer trust to anything else, that's distrusting God. Know where this often plays itself out: in arena of politics. I know, sensitive. Very political year, on local, state, national level. People get very excited about their politics. This is not political sermon; doesn't matter to me who voted for. But this passage from Bible reminds us not to transfer trust off God onto anyone else because no one else can save. **Vs. 3-4**. Politicians are not God; cannot save. That's why this whole political season, song in my head: "*Trust not in princes...claim its prey. Since, then, no one can help afford, trust only Christ, our God and Lord.*"
- That right there is answer to this tension between doubting/trusting. Sometimes trust/doubt. Need sermon re trusting God, and Ps 146 is that sermon because gives us reason to trust God. Listen to reasons: **vs. 6-9**. What sound like to you? To me, sounds lot like when JB had doubts, Jesus (in this week's Gospel): "**The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me**" (Mt 11:5-6).

- Jesus is answer; must be only answer! Answer to John's doubts; must be answer to ours, as well! Our hearts cannot be convinced to trust God simply by being told, "You should trust God." Our hearts can only be convinced of God's trustworthiness when God demonstrates his trustworthiness. God does dem trwns in JC. Look at cross! Look at bleeding Son of God, loving you, dying for you, forgiving you, reassuring you, demonstrating for you that you can trust him! If you want proof of God's love, just look at cross; because when you look at Christ on cross; and when see all these other supporting proofs (**vs. 6-9**); and when hear Jesus (**Mt 11:5-6**); when see all that proof of God's love encapsulated in Son of God your Savior, that's reason to trust God.
- Ps 146 is sermon re trusting God. Says: "I praise because trust God; don't want trust anyone else; here are reasons why I trust God." JC is our reason for trusting God. So simple but so important because we have tendency to doubt, just like John. But if Advent all about preparing hearts for Christ to come, and if our doubts are the obstacles prevent that Advent preparation, then does no good to ignore those doubts; certainly does no good to convince ourselves that we're these wretched sinners for ever doubting God. What need is sermon re trusting God, that says no matter what you're going through, no matter how ferociously Satan tempting you to doubt that God even cares about you, JC is reason you can trust God. So cling to Christ; embrace Christ; grasp his cross by faith, never let it go. He will never let you go. Let Christ's Gospel be lifeblood that courses through your very being. Wake / live / sleep Christ. And hold onto his cross, because in that cross is your help and hope. **Vs. 5.**

### **Psalm 146**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul. <sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. <sup>4</sup> When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. <sup>6</sup> He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – he remains faithful forever. <sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, <sup>8</sup> the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.