



# SUMMER AT ENCOUNTER

## AN INVITATION TO HOPE

July 18, 2021

Psalm 34:1 – 8

Pastor Brett Moore

### MESSAGE NOTES

A journey to a place of devotion, where you're reminded of why you're doing all this in the first place, sparks a revival of your attention and affection.

Our journey back to to the cross is a daily opportunity to re-experience the sacred assurance that is promised by Jesus.

*I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together! I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! — Psalm 34:1 – 8*

*Faith is the power of continuing to believe what we once honestly thought to be true until cogent reasons for honestly changing our minds are brought before us. — C.S. Lewis*

*Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together! — Psalm 34:3*

*Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. — Psalm 34:5*

*We must understand that God does not "love" us without liking us. — Dallas Willard*

*This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. — Psalm 34:6*

The experience of crying out to God, being heard, and receiving rescue is totally ordinary.

The best way to experience the grace of God is with a heart humbled before Him.

#### 1. INVITATION

*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! — Psalm 34:8*

#### 2. EXPERIENCE

*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. — Luke 2:15 – 17*

For the Christian, the pilgrimage to the presence of God is not a place you can go, but a person you can know.



## DISCUSSION

- Do you have a routine or rhythm for time with God?
- What words would you use to characterize what happens in that time? How do you feel before, during, and afterward?
- What does it mean to have faith in God? Do you have a desire? A process?
- What does it mean for you, personally, to make Jesus non-ignorable?
- Do you worry about being disappointed with God?
- What makes you feel skeptical about trusting Jesus?
- How do you think God feels / thinks about you?
- Does it sometimes seem like having God answer a prayer is only for certain special people at certain special times?
- How have you experienced the goodness of God?