

## SummerInThePsalms #10 – The Kiss

### Psalm 85

#### Intro:

In the deepest recesses of the human heart lives a desire. A hunger. A thirst. It shows up in every part of our humanity—emotionally, mentally, spiritually, even physically. And though it wears many disguises, it can only be satisfied by the Eternal God who placed it there.

That truth is on full display as the Psalmist pens another hit For “Heaven’s Playlist of the Soul”. He once again draws us to the **heart of God, not just with truths, but answers for our longing hearts.**

#### Let me begin by asking you a question:

When I mention, “The kiss”, what comes to mind?

- Some of the kids just made faces. I can almost hear them from, “Eww... that’s gross!”
- Some of our teens just kind of looked a little sheepish. Like maybe I know something...
- Maybe you instantly thought of Hallmark – they always end with a kiss...
- Or another Silver Screen big kiss moment.
- Maybe... you flashed back to that... kiss... your first, or maybe your greatest... that you will never forget!

**Or Biblical references may have come to mind.**

- The Hallmark scene from the Song Of Solomon – *“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.”* (1:2)
- Maybe **the infamous kiss of betrayal from Judas Iscariot.**
- Or maybe, just the oft repeated New Testament command - ***“Greet one another with an holy kiss.”***?

In our text, **the Psalmist elevates “the kiss” to one of the most unusual, intriguing, powerful metaphors ever, and in doing so, invites us to experience it for ourselves.**

**Interested?** Let's see what God has in store for us.

## 2 quick notes:

### The Author:

Though some believe this Psalm was **written post-exile**, others—including Spurgeon and myself—**lean toward Davidic authorship**. Either way, **we know this Psalm is for us**. The New Testament invites the Church to sing these songs—**not just for history's sake, but for the heart's sake**

### The Overall Theme:

Psalm 85 **addresses the need for national repentance and restoration for Israel.**

3000 years later, we have been invited to it, perhaps as a nation, but **it was to the church that the Lord admonished that we visit and learn and sing the Psalms. This was intended for us personally.**

## I. The Remembrance – What God Has Done

God admonished Israel, ***"Beware, lest thou forget..." Deut. 6:12***

**The danger was real. It had happened. This Psalm is birthed in the aftermath.**

God's past grace is the platform for future hope. The Psalmist leads them back...

He reminds them of

### A. Who He Is.

**LORD.** Jehovah. Jesus Our Savior.

**God:** "Elohim" – The God of Genesis 1:1! Creator. Sustainer. God of all!

### B. What He's Done. Vs. 1-3.

#### 1. Their Testimony.

- **\*\*\*This entire section is past tense. It is history.**

- Vs. 1- ***"been favorable"***: "Pleased with", "Delighted"

- Vs. 1 - Deliverer – ***“brough back the captivity” – Redemption through the blood of the Lamb!***
- Vs. 2 -Forgiveness
- Vs. 2- ***“covered all their sin”*** - Removal of sin: – **Atonement!**  
God couldn’t ignore it. Sin must always be addressed! He provided an atonement! Redeemer.
- **“Selah”** – Think about it!
- Vs. 3 - One more thing: No longer under wrath: ***“Thou has turned thyself from the fierceness of your anger”*** because they are His!  
Cf. Isa. 53 – ***“the chastisement of our peace was upon Him”*** 53:5

## 2. Our testimony:

- **Israel had a testimony of God’s favor, forgiveness, and atonement. Do you? Is there a moment, not just in history, but in *your story*, when you knew: ‘I am His and He is mine’?”**
- Can we rejoice that though we may fall we will never cease to be His children, come into condemnation, experience the fierceness of His wrath?

That is where the relationship... the journey... and all the possibilities that follow begins!

We next find

## **II. The Request - A Cry for Revival vs. 4-7**

### **A. Notice the place:**

**Who could ever have imagined that they could go from redeemed, loved and blessed to this place?**

**2 Chronicles 7** records one of the most glorious moments in Israel’s history. Solomon and the people dedicated the temple to God and fire fell from heaven and a time of wonder was experienced. It went on for weeks. It was a time of wonder and glory. They probably thought, “This is so great... this is what we want forever...”  
Yet, in that high moment God warned them of lows to come-

- “When you find yourself...”
- Then: ***“If my people, which are called by my name, shall...7:14!***
- Vs. 4-5 - God is angry with them because of **the direction they chose and traveled... “Turn us”**
- Vs. 6 – There is no rejoicing. There is deadness.
- Vs. 7- They are in the **“pig pen”** - consequences of their rebellious hearts
  - **In need of mercy** – God not giving them what they deserve!
  - **In need of salvation** – not to become His children, but from themselves and their circumstances as His children.

## **B. Hear the prayer – the cry of his heart:**

- Vs. 4 – **“Turn us”**. -The very definition of repentance.

**Repentance isn't about bad people becoming good or even wrong people working to get right; It's about God reaching and restoring those who will listen!**

- Vs. 4-5 **Help us – deliver us** from the destination we chose and the consequences they brought!

Vs. 6 – **“Revive us again”** –

To “re-vive” literally means to bring something back to life. **You can't be “re-vived” until you first been “vived”.!**

**David was praying for restoration. Transformation.**

**\*\*\*In the New Testament, the word is not used. But- the need for repentance, confession, transformation – is everywhere!**

**1 John 1:9!**

Nationally: America doesn't need just another election; she needs an awakening. But that awakening doesn't start in Washington – it starts in us!

### III. The Response – “I will listen...” vs. 8

#### **A. Personal response is required!**

God is speaking - *but are we listening?* *Has the noise of our own foolishness drowned out the voice of God?*

#### **B. “I will hear what God the LORD will speak”**

Wow- David doubles down on Who His God is! “Elohim Jehovah”

I will hear!

#### **C. Beware the ever-present folly!**

Will we? Today?

David turns from “I...” to the LORD!

### IV. The Result – The Love Story! (The Kiss! The Honeymoon!!)

#### **A. Assurance: vs. 9**

*Surely...*

There is a future in Him beyond the present of our choices!

#### **B. Awareness: Hope was rising! “That glory may dwell...”**

Nationally.

**Personally:** *“Christ in you, the hope of glory”*

Do YOU live in hope? Personal? Family? Today? Tomorrow?

#### **C. Astounding Reality: *The Kiss!* - The foundation for hope: vs. 10**

A love story of unimaginable dimension

## 1. The “meeting”:

If I were to ask those of you who are married... or perhaps are in a meaningful relationship- **“Where’d you meet? How’d you meet?”**  
Most would go back instantly and remember where it all began. I’d probably hear some pretty cool stories...

The Psalmist **borrowed the metaphor** and takes us to **the greatest relationship of all and where it all began.**

*How they met. Where they met.*

### a. “Mercy and truth are met together” vs. 10

**“met together”**: “Encountered. Became intertwined. Joined”

What?

**“truth” – The impossible suitor!**

Absolute.

Not open for interpretation.

Unchanging.

Uncompromising

**“Truth”** declares who we are, what we are, how hopeless our condition is, how impossible it is for us to experience Love Himself.

**“Mercy” “met” “truth” and knocked him off his feet!**

**Created a “new truth”!**

Mercy:

- The extension of underserved favor.
- Not giving fully deserved wrath or punishment.
- It generally involves accepting a loss or wrong by one able and willing to do so.

**Mercy—the undeserved embrace of God—met Truth, the unflinching standard of God.**

**Mercy and Truth met, embraced, married!**

## **2. The Kiss: “righteousness and peace have kissed each other”**

**“Righteousness”** –

Sinlessness; Perfection;

Absolute “right-ness”.

So much so that it could not allow anything or it would cease to be...

**“Peace”: “Shalom”** –

Oneness, absolute wholeness and wellbeing, favor...

**Impossible!**

**And yet – it happened!**

**That kiss didn’t happen in a temple, a throne room, a silver screen or a dream...**

**The love story of all the ages played out on a darkened hill called Calvary.**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son” –*

Mercy and truth met on a cross

Righteousness was satisfied, the barrier of sin forever removed, and peace with God became possible.

**For every single person:** *“the world... that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16)

**The Kiss of Calvary made it possible for us to look beyond sin and impossibility to the Savior, and breath hope!**

Psalms 85:10 is fulfilled at the cross.

## **3. The future looked different! Vs. 11-13!!!**

Because the gospel of Jesus, we do not have to remain in our failures and folly.

We don’t have to stay in the nightmare of our own making.

There was a kiss at the cross. Mercy met truth. Righteousness kissed peace. And love made a way—for you.

1. Walk with Him and enjoy the never-ending honeymoon of grace!

2. Come back to Him.

3. Or come to Him for the first time.