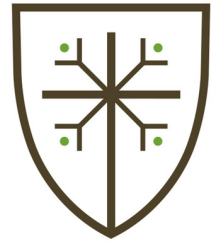


SUMMER PSALMS

An Ordinary Time Sermon Series 2026

SERMON NOTES



August 9, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Sorrow in Honey and Milk"

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Psalm 34

2 Corinthians 1:15-22

Matthew 10:28-31

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What promise in your life do you consider unfulfilled?
How do you wait for fulfillment?
2. Do you live your life, subconsciously or not, according to your timeline or the Lord's?
3. What are some areas that you can direct your attention more fully towards God?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Josh concluded our Summer Psalms series with an examination of Psalm 34, letting the verses, written by King David, guide us through the question "how do we respond when we have promises that are unrealized?"

Context

To understand why Psalm 34 answers the overall question, we must first understand that David wrote the psalm around the events in 1 Samuel 21: after he was anointed king, killed Goliath, and married Saul's daughter. David's life seemed perfectly on track for fulfilled promise, until Saul's opinion of David soured. David fled Israel to a Philistine town and was forced to feign madness to survive. We know that God ultimately delivered David from these tribulations, but, just as we experience trials, David only knew the present moment; he didn't know the eventual triumph. Instead of questioning the Lord, he begins the psalm saying, "I will bless the LORD," and later says that he fears the LORD. In contrast, the Corinthians reacted with near-immediate cynicism when Paul did not return at a promised time; they doubted the integrity of Paul's love and word as a result. We, too, have expectations that we set for God, and can jump to doubt when he doesn't meet them. God does fulfill his promises, but it takes time. Josh gave the image of an unfinished painting, commenting that "God must finish the painting yet." So often we want to be at the finished painting. Yet it is the journey of every Christian after the cross to await the return of Jesus. The painting will be complete, but most likely not on our anticipated schedules.

Expectations

It took 25 years for the promise to be fulfilled for David. However, patience in promise goes against what has been described as the subconscious understanding of religion in America: Moralistic Therapeutic Deism — doing good so that we may live successful lives (moralistic), feeling good and happy (therapeutic), and believing that God is real but doesn't interfere with our lives (deism). However, a successful, happy life isn't what God promises. Jesus promises in the Gospel, echoing David's lamenting lines, that we will experience trials. But Jesus also declares that he has overcome the world. Similarly, David didn't find a life of ease and comfort, but he had the LORD near to him and with him. David describes God listening to and looking at him, painting the picture of our attentive God. We know the same is true for us because of Jesus. If we, like the Corinthians, doubt God's love for us, we know that God did not spare his only son Jesus. Christ is God's deepest promise, echoed across the Old Testament. The longing we may feel because of unfulfilled promises is a pointer to a deep yearning for Christ. Being united with him, we find both our desires fulfilled presently and know they will be eternally.

Fear & Vision

How do we get David's type of trust in God, knowing that God is with us even in our lowest moments? How do we both fear not and fear the Lord (two of the most common phrases repeated in the Bible)? The both/and is not merely saying that we should be afraid of God more than our fear, but that we should look to God more than what terrifies us. There is delight, trembling, love, and worship all present in this sentiment. Jesus even takes delight in the fear of the LORD. Josh defined fear as being overwhelmed, so much so that our attention and vision are focused entirely on God. David looks not at his affliction but instead praises God and exhorts others to do the same out of an overwhelmed feeling of love and gratitude. Such attention changes us, increasing gratitude, orienting our pursuits towards God, his goodness and his peace. The things we look at shape what we see, so look to God that we may become more and more like him.