

Sharing Jesus' Confidence in the Father
Psalm 121
Sermon Outline

Introduction:

“Maybe it makes me feel safe to think that if I tell you all my secrets you won’t have any ammo against me that I haven’t given you.”

Emily Gould, Blogger, NY Time Magazine, May 25, 2008

I) God is our “keeper”

To keep is to protect, preserve and think all the time about someone or something because you highly value that person or thing.

A) God thinks about us all the time:

He never sleeps

B) God actively preserves and protects us

No problem too big

Through the seasons of life

Present and future

His “keeping” is particular

C) Does this mean a trouble-free life?

II) Why and how is God our “keeper”

A) Why: He loves us because he loves us

B) How: He turned the “ammo” on himself

III) God keeps those who trust him

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) List the top two things that make you feel unsafe at the moment.
- 2) Discuss the following: “The Lord never dozes off. He is awake and thinking about us when the sun is at its hottest—when the trials are fierce, when we are swamped with work; and he is awake at night—when we are alone, cold, and afraid, when our needs and doubts haunt us into sleeplessness.”
- 3) Hebrews 7:25-26 reads, “He is able to save to the uttermost (or, completely) those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” What does it mean to you to know that the Lord prays 24/7 for you?
- 4) Since God “made heaven and earth”, nothing is too big for him. Do you have trouble believing this when it comes to anything in particular that you are dealing with.
- 5) All the “you’s” in Psalm 121:3-8 are in the singular (“thee” “thy” “thou...”). The use of the singular stresses that the watch-care described in this psalm is particular. Do you have difficulty believing that God’s loving concern and protection is directed toward you in particular—the real and deep you that no one else fully knows or understands? If so, why? How can you begin to act in such a way that reflects greater confidence that his “keeping” is directed towards you in particular?
- 6) Read over Romans 8:18-39, which is full of assurance and also full of reference to suffering and difficulty. How does Paul bring the two together, and how does this help you to understand the meaning of God’s watch-care over you in this still troubled world?
- 7) Reflect on the following comment by Matthew Henry: “If God doesn’t help, no creature can help; if he does, no creature can hinder, can hurt.”
- 8) According to Ephesians 1, God loves his people simply because he loves them. In other words, his love arises from no other place than his own heart—not because of anything he sees or foresees in us. How does this fact give us comfort as we face the unlovable things in ourselves?
- 9) The deepest reason for why “the sun of judgment does not strike us” is that God’s Son bore that judgment himself. Give thanks to God for the way he guaranteed the promises of Psalm 121 through his own suffering.