

Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup

The e-Glue that helps with the glitter

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Here Comes Church – “In the know”

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.cc. The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Don't over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- K-Love and Elevation Workshop at Red Rocks in CO in August 2025
- Elevation Nights is back: Elevation Nights is hitting the road again and we're coming to a city near you from October 21st through the 30th, 2025 - we're going to be in St. Paul, Omaha, St Louis, Louisville, Duluth, Tampa, Miami, and Orlando.
- Fall 2025 eGroup sign ups

Message from Elevation Church:

“This year, as we celebrate two decades of ministry, we are more aware than ever that it’s been the faith and generosity of people that have made it possible.”

Already in 2025:

- Over 9,546 people have made a decision for Christ.
- 2,033 have gone public with their faith through baptism.
- We released the song, “I Know A Name.”
- We released 2 new albums: Sons of Sunday and Victory Lap .
- We had our biggest Elevation Nights to date in the spring, and we’re headed back out this fall.
- Our Uptown and Greenville campuses are both set to move into their permanent facilities by year-end.
- We broke ground on our Raleigh location and are expected to launch early next year.

Psalm 139:7-17.

"Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol..." Some translations say hell. "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,' even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. For you formed my inward parts..." - "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them." "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!"

Psalms 13:1-4 - David's fight was on the inside

Psalms 13:5-6 - David changes the loop

Psalm 13

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

1 How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts

and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"

and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

5 But I trust in your unfailing love;

my heart rejoices in your salvation.

6 I will sing the Lord's praise,

for he has been good to me.

Ephesians 6:11-12 KJV - We wrestle against spiritual wickedness

The Armor of God

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1 Chronicles 28:11-12 - David had a blueprint from the Spirit

11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement. 12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the Lord and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things. 13 He gave him instructions for the divisions of the priests and Levites, and for all the work of serving in the temple of the Lord, as well as for all the articles to be used in its service. 14 He designated the weight of gold for all the gold articles to be used in various kinds of service, and the weight of silver for all the silver articles to be used in various kinds of service: 15 the weight of gold for the gold lampstands and their lamps, with the weight for each lampstand and its lamps; and the weight of silver for each silver lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand; 16 the weight of gold for each table for consecrated bread; the weight of silver for the silver tables; 17 the weight of pure gold for the forks, sprinkling bowls and pitchers; the weight of gold for each gold dish; the weight of silver for each silver dish; 18 and the weight of the refined gold for the altar of incense. He also gave him the plan for the chariot, that is, the cherubim of gold that spread their wings and overshadow the ark of the covenant of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - We fix our eyes on what's unseen

The Temple's Furnishings

4 He made a bronze altar twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high. 2 He made the Sea of cast metal, circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim to rim and five cubits[b] high. It took a line of thirty cubits[c] to measure around it. 3 Below the rim, figures of bulls encircled it—ten to a cubit.[d] The bulls were cast in two rows in one piece with the Sea.

4 The Sea stood on twelve bulls, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east. The Sea rested on top of them, and their hindquarters were toward the center. 5 It was a handbreadth[e] in thickness, and its rim was like the rim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It held three thousand baths.[f]

6 He then made ten basins for washing and placed five on the south side and five on the north. In them the things to be used for the burnt offerings were rinsed, but the Sea was to be used by the priests for washing.

7 He made ten gold lampstands according to the specifications for them and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north.

8 He made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north. He also made a hundred gold sprinkling bowls.

9 He made the courtyard of the priests, and the large court and the doors for the court, and overlaid the doors with bronze. 10 He placed the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner.

11 And Hiram also made the pots and shovels and sprinkling bowls.

So Hiram finished the work he had undertaken for King Solomon in the temple of God:

12 the two pillars; the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; the two sets of network decorating the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; 13 the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows of pomegranates for each network, decorating the bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars);

14 the stands with their basins; 15 the Sea and the twelve bulls under it;

16 the pots, shovels, meat forks and all related articles.

All the objects that Hiram-Abi made for King Solomon for the temple of the Lord were of polished bronze. 17 The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan between Sukkoth and Zarethan.[g]

18 All these things that Solomon made amounted to so much that the weight of the bronze could not be calculated.



Hiram's great work – some of which no one could ever see from the ground – a testament to God and no one else.

Quiz question: How much in today's dollars would it cost to build King Solomon's temple?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

Prayer Prompt by Elevation eGroup staff:

Pastor Steven reminded us this week: “I’m going to out-trust this trouble.” Even if there may be trouble, what are we choosing to trust God through this week? We thank God for the message this week and the reminder that our song can last longer than our storms. We ask that God would continue strengthening us whatever obstacles they may face this week. Pray that God shows us how we can continue to change the loop of thinking in their lives and to trust Him through every situation.

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- The human will has its limits even when you're in the will of God
- What do I do when the enemy moves the fight to the inside?
- When you hit your limit, change your level
- It may end in failure, but I will not live in fear
- The minds that are under the most vicious attack are carrying the most brilliant potential
- The level of your battle tells you something about the level that God's calling you to build.
- Sometimes it's not us waiting on God, but it's God waiting on us.
- When you've hit your limit, you need a new loop: Go from “how long?” to “how good?”
- I'm going to out-trust this trouble
- God doesn't always deliver us from it, but He calls us to decide in it.
- If the storm keeps raging, keep singing.

Scriptures

- Psalms 13:1-4 - David's fight was on the inside
- Psalms 13:5-6 - David changes the loop
- 1 Samuel 17 - David and Goliath
- Ephesians 6:11-12 KJV - We wrestle against spiritual wickedness
- 1 Chronicles 28:11-12 - David had a blueprint from the Spirit
- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - We fix our eyes on what's unseen

Sermon Discussion

- “I'm going to out-trust this trouble.” What's your “how long” that you're trusting God through right now?
- “When you've hit your limit, you need a new loop.” Share 1-2 things that you're grateful for with your group that help you move from “how long” to “how good” when you need it most.
- Additional Questions
- “It may end in failure, but I will not live in fear.” In what area of your life do you need this reminder?
- “What do I do when the enemy moves the fight to the inside?” What thoughts try to sneak in that you need to be on guard against?
- “If the storm keeps raging, keep singing.” What's a worship song you'll keep “on a loop” in this season?

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- Elevation Nights is hitting the road again and we're coming to a city near you. From October 21st through the 30th, we're going to be in St. Paul, Omaha, St. Louis, Louisville, Duluth, Tampa, Miami, Orlando. Visit elevation.com to find your city and get your tickets.
- Today, I want to move right into our sermon. I want to move right into the Word of God. Grab your Bible, open your heart, stand up on your feet, and get ready to receive from the Lord. Tell your neighbor, "I'm ready." Tell them, "You need to get ready too. I can't sit next to a lazy neighbor today."
- Come on. If your neighbor looks hateful, you've still got a minute to move before I start preaching. Let's welcome our global eFam online all around the world.
- All right. I know you've only got one hand because you're holding your Bible, but clap a little better than that. Come on. Welcome our eFam. God is so good and so faithful.
- I've got one for you today. The Lord has been speaking to me. Do you mind if I pray before I read the Scripture? I don't really care if you mind or not. I'm going to pray before I read the Scripture.
- Lord, I enjoyed so much as you showed me this message. It helped me. It ministered to me. It gave me medicine. It helped my mindset. It really gave me something to hang on to in my own life this week and something to encourage those I love with. Now I'm standing before thousands of people that I love with your love. I don't know them personally, most of them, but you know each of them intimately.
- **I pray that you would help me in these moments we have together that are so precious and so rare, just undistracted, unencumbered moments in your presence. Our hearts have been tilled by the truths we've sang through the praise we've lifted to your wonderful name, and now we're ready to receive a word from you. Help me to show them what you showed me. I believe if that happens, they'll be helped. I believe if that happens, they'll be set free. I believe if that happens, strongholds will break in this place. Not just one stronghold, but stronghold after stronghold after stronghold be broken by your Word.**
- I thank you in advance for testimonies that I will receive from this word that you will release through me today. In Jesus' name, amen.
- Psalm 13 is our passage for today. We're in part 4 of a series called That's What I Thought. We're trying to take some of these patterns that are in our lives that are paralyzing us, the patterns that keep causing us needless pain, and to replace those patterns with God's promises and God's processes for our thinking. So far, we've looked at this from several different angles, but today's will be the most practical one so far.
- **The psalmist in Psalm 13 has a prayer to lift to God, and it starts like this: "How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, 'I have overcome him,' and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love..."**

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- **Do you see how that just lifted? This psalm is a lament. It's a cry for help. It's filled with anguish. It's in the tone of sorrow, but there is a lift within the lament. There is a lift within your lament today. When you cry to God, he won't just leave you crying. "Forweeping may endure for a night, but joy comes with the morning." Somebody say, "Good morning." "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me."**
- Go ahead and clap your hands for the Word of God. I want to give you my title in a special way today, and I need you to turn to your neighbor one more time. You don't have to talk to them again after this if you don't want to. But start by asking them a question.
- It's going to set up my subject for today. Tell your neighbor... First things first. Just tell them, "I know you've been going through some trouble." Look at them and say, "I can tell."
- **Now look back at them and ask, "How long do you think it's going to last?" Are you ready? Now look back at them and answer that question they just asked you. Look them right in their eyes and tell them, "Not as long as my song." That's what I want to preach to you about today: Not as Long as My Song.**
- Father, make it plain and powerful and personal. In Jesus' name, I give you praise, amen.
- You may be seated. Give three hugs before you sit down, and then be seated.
- God is good all the time. God is good.
- How Long?
- Four times in the psalm, the psalmist asked the question that every parent has heard on a road trip: "How long?" We had a pretty rainy week of weather in Charlotte, North Carolina. Holly looked at me Friday and said, "Am I ever going to see the sun again?" "How long, Lord?" It doesn't take long, does it?
- It doesn't take long for us to get gloomy. It doesn't take long for us to buy into a narrative that's very negative. At least for me, it doesn't take long. I have discovered that even the strongest faith only can hold on so long through certain situations, and I have discovered that the human will has its limits, even when you're in the will of God.
- Now, I know I'm starting early, but that would have been worth writing down had you had your notebook ready, had I given you a moment to get situated. Every human will has its limits, even when you're in the will of God. Even when you're doing what God called you to do, there is a place that you hit a wall.
- So, today, I want to talk from the subject, "How long, Lord?" but I want to talk about three Ls that I think will help you. I'm going to give them to you up front, and we'll review them at the end. You've heard of lions and tigers and bears... Right. This is modeled after that, but it's not exactly that. I want to talk about limits, and levels and loops. Limits and levels and loops. Put those in the chat, please, if you're watching online, or the comments. Limits and levels and loops, oh my. Amen.

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- Recall that Pastor Furtick shared a story about a family member that needed two surgeries.
- Even the strongest human will has a limit. Even the strongest resolve has a limit when your when has no end in sight. Because after the surgery, not only was it worse the second time, but he stayed in the hospital that time for the better part of a week. He went home. They put a PICC line in him to give him his antibiotics, and then what they were putting in his body to keep him from becoming infected and to get the infection out of his body was making him nauseous again. "So now I can't eat again. And when I can't eat, I am not very happy about anything. Don't tell me to praise the Lord, because I praised the Lord for the first week, but I wasn't planning on the second week or to have these tubes for 30 days in my arms."
- I know there are people who are going through a lot worse than that, and your condition is a lot more serious than what I'm describing, but perhaps we can agree together that even the strongest human will has a limit. It seems like the person who wrote Psalm 13 has hit his limit. He doesn't start the beginning of the psalm with praise, thanks, "Glory be," or "Hallowed." He says, "How long?" Not "Hallelujah" but "How-long-elujah." It's a different kind of prayer.
- I'm choosing these psalms throughout our series to show you that you can come to God honestly and sincerely with your problems but not focus on your problems and not remain in the same place that you came when you brought your problems to God. By the way, Elijah is doing so well. He's doing so incredibly well. He's actually working for me now, clipping my sermons for TikTok.
- That's right. He's on the front row today. They gave him today off, but he said, "If you get preaching too good, I might have to run to the back and clip you real quick."
- Now, the interesting thing about the psalmist's complaint that ends in praise but starts with complaint is he says, "How long will you forget me, Lord? How long are you going to hide from me? I can't find you."
- "Man, it's like you keep telling me, God, to do something, but then I do what I thought you told me to do, and I'm not sure if that's what you told me to do, because I don't feel you. I moved because I thought I was moving in obedience to the will of God for my life." But even when you're in the will of God, the strongest human will can only hold on so long. **When you get in that place of "How long? How long?..." I think I should say it like this. You can only be strong for so long. You can only feel forgotten for so long. You can only feel taken for granted for so long. You can only do for others so long and say, "Well, I'm doing it for the Lord. I'm doing it for the Lord. I'm doing it for the Lord. I'm doing it for the Lord. A 'thank you' would be nice, but I'm not doing it for a 'thank you'; I'm doing it for the Lord." And then you explode on us, because even the nicest, most polite, most servant-hearted person can only serve strong for so long before you start wondering, "How long till they reciprocate for me?" Don't say, "Amen." They'll know you're agitated with them and you're about to explode any minute and they need to duck. "How long will you forget me? How long will you hide from me?" He actually says something that I know we've all felt in here: "How long will my enemy triumph over me?" In other words, when Will I Get A Win?**

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- "How long till I get a win? I don't feel like I'm winning anywhere." Maybe you felt that way as a husband this week. "If I'm winning as a provider, I'm not winning as a parent.
- I'm paying for stuff, but I don't have time to play with my kids, because if I play with my kids, I can't pay for the stuff, and they don't want to play with nothing. But if I'm going to pay for it, I've got to work for it, and if I'm working for it, I can't be with them. I can't win anywhere. How long till I can retire? How long, Lord?" I'm making light of it, although there is nothing light about the feeling, just to bring us into the thought.
- "How long will you forget me, Lord? How long will you hide from me? How long will it be till I feel you? How long will it be till you confirm for me that this is the right thing to do? How long, Lord, till I get this thing out of my arm? How long till I can eat again, smile again, breathe deeply again, and not feel that shallow, crippling anxiety that I've been managing for three months, and I can't tell anybody? But how long do you expect me to smile at them while I'm stressed inside of myself? How long is my enemy going to win?
- I know you're mighty, and I know you're great, and I know you're awesome, and I know you're wonderful, but when are you going to do something about what my enemy is doing to me?
- Do you see how they're talking about me? Do you see how they're taking advantage of me? Do you see how they're walking all over me? How long until you rise up and defend me, Lord? How long?"
- But the one that felt so personal to me (and perhaps it will feel personal to you as well) was the one sandwiched right in the middle of all of that, where he said in verse 2... I don't know if you ever had an experience where you thought the Lord wrote a special verse in your Bible because he'd been following you around, and the Lord just took a verse that wasn't there before and put it in there for you. I felt that way when I read Psalm 13:2. "How long must I wrestle with my thoughts?" I totally get that question. "How long will I wrestle with my thoughts?"
- You know, whoever wrote this psalm must not be very tough, because if he was tough, he would just "buck up, buckaroo." He would just get over it. When life gave him lemons, he would just make some lemonade. He must not be very strong in the Lord, this man.
- Look in your Bible, not verse 1, but right before verse 1, and you will see above Psalm 13 the attribution of who wrote this psalm. Although it does not mention what the situation was that inspired the psalm, it gives us the name of the person who wrote the psalm, and he's a man named David. So, I take back everything I just said a minute ago about "He must be a wimp. He must not be very strong."

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- I would never say that about David, and I definitely wouldn't say it to his face. Even if I thought that David was an emotional basket case, I wouldn't say it to David, because if David could find a rock... I might comment it in the YouTube section about David, but I wouldn't say it to his face. Internet courage. That's what some people have. Comment courage. But David had strong courage and strong faith, which is why we are surprised to hear him talking this way. Most scholars tell us that David wrote this at the time of his life that he was no longer a kid but not yet a king, those transitional moments in life. In his specific instance, the king who was king was trying to kill him because he was threatened by him. It is highly likely that David wrote Psalm 13 in this transitional moment of needing to trust God. But I'm stuck on the fact that it was David, because when he says, "How long must I wrestle with my thoughts?" it occurs to me that David was really good at wrestling. I'll take you to the moment David's name became famous. Now, this is the one that put David on the map. You've heard it. You know it. You love it. It involves an uncircumcised Philistine named Goliath. He hails from Philistia, 9'3" tall, weighing in at 320 pounds, carrying a bronze spear, a javelin, and a shield that's bigger than David.
- Here comes Goliath, and for 40 days he taunts the nation of Israel (1 Samuel 17). David shows up one day with cheese and bread disguised as a DoorDasher but coming in as a deliverer. Did you hear what I just said? He's disguised like DoorDash, but he's carrying deliverance. He hears the giant taunting the people of God and says, "How long has he been talking to y'all like this? How long are you going to let him keep talking trash when you have the truth?" "Well, see, David, he's a big giant, and you're a little boy." The king that was threatened by David that didn't even really know his name yet says to David, "You can't fight against him. He's too big for you."
- Now, I just want to remind you of David's résumé. Pick up in 1 Samuel 17:34. "But David said to Saul..." That's the king. That's the kid talking to the king. "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it, and rescued the sheep from its mouth."
- Check this phrase: "When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it, and killed it." Do you see what I'm saying? He didn't just kill the lion from a distance or say a prayer over it and God gave it a tumor and it died. He said, "I grabbed it up close, and I wrestled with a lion and tore the sheep out of his mouth." That's David. That's what he did.
- And when Saul heard what he was capable of doing with the mane of a lion, he sent him to the battle line to fight Goliath, and with one smooth stone...had five ready but only needed one smooth stone...he knocked the giant down, cut off his head, and the Bible says with a sling and not a sword in his hand, he triumphed over the giant, in verse 50.

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- But the moment I realized that David was very good at dealing with a lion that turned on him is the moment I realized that this time, in Psalm 13, he is not dealing with a lion. He is not dealing with a bear. The problem in Psalm 13 is that David knows what to do with an external threat.
- "I can rip it apart. Give me a challenge. I'll figure it out. 'If there was a problem, yo, I'll solve it.'" David knew (that's a psalm also), "If there's a lion in front of me, I know what to do with a lion. I have a reliable strategy for a lion. I can beat a bear. But this time," David says, "I am wrestling with my thoughts.
- I'm not wrestling with a lion this time; I'm wrestling with my mind."
- "How long can I wrestle with something that isn't coming from the outside? I can deal with that. Not with a to-do list. I can deal with that. Not with a challenge I'm facing that I can plan for in an appointment or something I can prep for with my knowledge, my intellect, and my skill. I've been able to do that on several levels throughout the years.
- But now I'm dealing with something, and it's not a bear; it's my brain. It's not a lion; it's my mind. So, it begs the question: What do I do when the enemy moves the fight to the inside where I can't leave it at the office, where I can't leave it in a location, where I can't leave it for a nine-to-five?" He hits his limit, and he says, "How long?" "I could deal with this until they had to operate again. I could deal with it."
- Do you know what I was saying to the Lord the other week? I said, "I thought I was through with this." Have you ever felt that way about something? "I thought I was through with this." Because you already praised the Lord for all your progress publicly at your eGroup, and you don't really know how to go back and tell the eGroup, "I got bad news. It got infected, and I've got to do it again." "Because the first time, they prayed me through it, but this time they might judge me because of it."
- Y'all are getting quiet. Preacher is preaching truth. This is Holy-Ghost truth right now. I am on your case right now. "How long? I could deal with it if you just give me a dumbbell. I can curl a dumbbell. But when I am a dumbbell... When I'm dealing with stuff that's happening on the inside..."
- Do you remember last week we talked about Paul saying, "I put the ways of childhood behind me"? That's wonderful. You can put certain ways of childhood behind you. I sold all of my wrestling figures, all of my Lex Luger and Sting and Ultimate Warrior and Hulk Hogan. I sold them all. I wish I hadn't. They're worth a lot more money now, but I put all that behind me. But I still wrestle with the ways of childhood.
- So, it begs the question... What do you do when you hit your limit? I'm speaking to somebody today. You feel like, "I have hit my limit. I'm a pretty strong person, but I've hit my limit. I can carry a lot, but I have hit my limit. I have dealt with this, and I have coped with this, and I have managed this, and I have managed not to make everybody else crazy around me, but I'm going crazy. I have hit my limit.
- How long will you forget me? How long will you hide?

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- God, I can go a little while without feeling your presence, but I haven't felt you in months. God, I can go a little while without confirmation and just stay obedient to the last thing I heard, but I need a sign. How long? I can't believe I'm going through this again. I thought I was through with this. I thought I was done with this.
- Why am I more tempted than ever? Why am I more angry than ever? Why am I having bitterness flashbacks now? I thought I forgave them.
- I thought they cut it out of me. I thought they fixed it. I went back, and they put me back in the ICU. How long am I going to be here? I can only pretend to be strong so long. I can't wear this uniform home and wear it to work and pretend to be strong."
- So, David opens up to the Lord, and he realizes that when you have hit your limit, and you can't kill this with your hands, you can't kill this with your biceps, you can't kill this with your rational thinking, you can't kill this with your college degree, you can't kill this with your willpower, you can't kill this with your focused determination, you can't kill this with your vitamins, and you can't kill this with your collagen, your health routine, and your cold plunge..."I keep doing the stuff I'm supposed to do, but it's not fixing the real problem I have."
- David realized that when you hit your limit, it's a sign that you need to change your level. So, whoever I'm preaching to, when you hit your limit, change your level.
- When you hit your limit, when you feel that in the course of a 24-hour period, in the course of your college career, in the course of you trying to raise your own family, in the course of you feeling your way through the forest of your emotions and your feelings of forsakenness... When you hit your limit, change your level. Limits and levels and loops, oh my! Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!
- Wrestling with my thoughts of depression; wrestling with my thoughts of insecurity; wrestling with my old ways of handling situations; wrestling with things that were passed down to me or exemplified; wrestling with my sin nature, which is crucified with Christ but keeps trying to have a resurrection; wrestling with the things that I thought drowned in the Red Sea, but why are they swimming after me?
- When I am wrestling with something I can tear apart with my hands, that's one thing, but sometimes, the Bible says in Ephesians 6:11-12, you have to put on the whole armor of God. The King James says in verse 12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood..." This is not a lion you're wrestling with. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood..." This is not a bear this time.
- **I'm wrestling with my thoughts. I'm wrestling with some secrets. I'm wrestling with some shame. I'm wrestling with some strong temptation. I'm wrestling with some "Not me." I'm wrestling with some "Why me?" I'm wrestling with some "What about me?" Well, I am not wrestling anymore with flesh and blood, but I am wrestling against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

- See, I understand something about wrestling, not because I watched Hulk Hogan but because I have a son who is a wrestler. Not WWF, but he kind of wrestling where they put you on a mat for six minutes and you have to outscore or pin the other person. Now, in wrestling, I have a little experience because I was a state champion in the eighth grade in a freestyle tournament where there were no other entries in my weight class category, but Graham is pretty good.
- I took him to see the national championship where all of the greatest college wrestlers were wrestling. Carl Perry was sitting next to me, who was a former national champion. I said, "Tell me what to watch when they wrestle. I don't really know what to watch. I understand wrestling, but not at your level." I said, "What do you look for at your level?" He said, "At this level, all of the guys who are out there know how to change levels." I said, "I know what that means, but pretend like I didn't and explain it to me so I could explain it to somebody else who doesn't know what it means." He said, "Well, when you stay too still too long, you become predictable. But what you've got to do at this level... You've got to change levels so quick that I can't tell if you're about to pop me on my head or pop me on my head to set me up to grab my ankle."
- The Devil will come at you so many different ways and have you standing still so long, talking about, "How long am I going to feel like this? How long is it going to be like this? How long are they going to forget about me? How long till they recognize me?"
- **But if you have hit a wall called "How long?" today, and you have hit your limit, and you don't see a way to win this fight, the Spirit of God said, "Change levels." If you've been down too long, stand up and praise the Lord. Wake up the lion inside of your lungs.**
- You've been sitting there 34 minutes thinking about my sermon, but change levels for 10 seconds. Jump up on your feet. Stick your chest out and tell the Devil, "I'm saved." Say it. "I'm saved."
- **Change levels. For we wrestle not against low things; we wrestle against high things. And if I'm wrestling against a high thing, I know a higher thing that can bring it down. I cast down strongholds. I cast down depression. I cast down fear. I cast down panic. I cast down shame. I cast down suicide. I cast it!**
- Hear the name that is above every name. Help me lift his name! High-five 13 people and say, "I'm changing levels. I'm changing levels." "Oh, there he goes. Oh, there he goes. There he goes. There she goes. I can't predict her. When I think I got her down, she gets back up. When I think she's getting proud, she starts to pray." "I'm changing."
- Let's Talk About Loops - David said, "I don't know how long this is going to last. I don't know how long I'm going to be hurting like this. I don't know how long I'm going to have to push through this without any evidence that God is working. I don't know how long, but I'll tell you one thing: not as long as my song."
- I talked about lions, I talked about bears, I talked about limits, and I talked about levels, but I want to talk about loops, because when you get to verse 5, David has disrupted his own despair and prayer for deliverance. (Y'all are sitting down like you're not in a hurry to get out of here and go back to whatever hell you've been fighting. Ain't nothing waiting at home but a lion and a bear for you. Huh? You might as well go ahead and get this Bible lesson.)

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

- What happens so many times in an experience like this that we won't admit is we get the lesson, we leave, and we don't get in the loop. David said something so powerful in verse 4. He says, "If you don't do something soon, God, I'm going to fail, and my foes will rejoice when I fall." Now, I told the Lord I would share this with you if the atmosphere felt open to it, so I will. There was a season of my ministry where Holly and I were so paralyzed by the nature of public ministry, public criticism, in the age of AI when people can make up things you said and make it sound like you say it and make it look like you were standing there with Oscar the Grouch if they want to... It's no longer to Photoshop you into anything.
- There was a time where I was so consumed with the fear that something in ministry would cause me to fail or that my best had been behind me and it was only going to get worse from here. So, if you're struggling with that in your own way, the fear of failure or the fear of looking like a fool, listen to what the Lord gave me. It really parallels the thought process of David. Not to compare myself to David, but I do relate to the resistance and the wrestling he felt.
- I thought for many years that the wrestling meant something was wrong with me. I thought the fact that I wrestle with this means I am this. I thought the wrestling meant that something was wrong with me. I need to slow down before I show you what I want to show you.
- In verse 4, he says, "My foes will rejoice when I fall." Do you see that?
- There was a loop in my mind that went on for months and months and months. "It's going to end in failure. It's going to end in failure. It's going to end in failure." I couldn't pinpoint why. I did see other things that were happening to other people all around me, and I thought, "Oh man! How long can I keep preaching and writing songs and doing ministry? I don't want to do it in the flesh; I want to do it in the Spirit." But sometimes you get tired. Sometimes you get tired too, and you wonder, "Is this going to end in failure?"
- **So, one day, the Lord gave me a thought, and it busted me out of the prison I was in that came from the loop of thinking I had entertained. "What if it ends in failure? It's going to end in failure. It's going to end in failure. It's going to end in failure." The way he gave it to me was something I could latch on to, and I give it to you exactly as he gave it to me. I wrote it down. He said, "I want you to start confessing this over your life." And I did it out loud every day for a year. "It may end in failure, but I will not live in fear." I've struggled to hold to that, and I've struggled to live it out, but he gave it to me. It was one line he gave me, one line to deal with the lie. See, the lie I was in... The loop was that if something fails, I'm a failure. But when I realized that He loved me before I started a church... He loved me when y'all got here; he'll love me if you leave.**
- He'll love me if I preach good; he'll love me if I stand up here and stammer and stutter.
- He knows what I'm trying to say, and he'll even take his Spirit and interpret it. You'll tell me, "Pastor, that was awesome when you said this," and I won't even have said that, and you'll have heard that, because God wanted to get it to you. So, even if it fails... Watch this "It may end in failure, but I will not live in fear." That has done more for me than all of my resistance.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

- Because you try to wrestle at a certain level. You're like, "Oh, no. Well, I'm going to study, and I'm going to take my creatine, and I'm going to do..." But even that has its limits. So, I changed the level. I changed the level. David can't figure out how to battle his thoughts, because this is not something he is fighting that is turning on him on the outside; his own mind is turning on him. What do you do when your mind turns on you? And why did David's mind attack him so viciously? Is it possible that the minds that are under the most vicious attack are also carrying the most brilliant potential? Think about what David went on to do.
- David went on to become not only a king, but he became the designer of the temple that was the house of God for which he gave the plans to his son Solomon. When he gave him the plans for the temple, he said something very interesting in 1 Chronicles 28. He said... Well, that says he gave him the plans for the portico, buildings, storerooms, upper parts, inner rooms, and place of atonement. So, he had all that mapped out. Verse 12: "He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the Lord and all the surrounding rooms, treasuries of the temple of God and treasuries of the dedicated things." It goes on to list in the most specific detail everything God put into David's mind. Now we understand why, in Psalm 13, he was wrestling with his thoughts, because that mind was under attack by the Enemy, because it was the place that would conceive something awesome for God.
- That mind from which the temple would come, where the people would worship...that mind, that beautiful, brilliant mind... It wasn't a broken mind; it was a brilliant mind. The level of your battle tells you something about the level God is calling you to build. See, when you have an overactive imagination, you can build a temple, but if you have an overactive imagination, you can also call Bathsheba to come and sleep with you, even though she's not your wife, and make a plan for her husband to get killed on the front lines of battle.
- **That is why it's important in this season of your life that you win the battle for your mind, because there is something God wants to bring forth from your mind. I'm trying to say that the place of the blueprint is always the place of the battle. I'll say it again. When God is going to give you a blueprint... Some of you are creating generational change. Some of you are doing it different than your family ever did. Some of you are setting a new direction, a new course for everybody with your last name or maiden name in the future. The reason the battle has been so fierce in your mind... There is so much material in your mind. There is so much potential in your mind. David's mind would go on to lead armies. His mind was capable of navigating through the most arid terrain. He could find water in places that the troops that were chasing him would not even dare to follow him into.**
- That mind... Of course it was under attack. Of course it was a battle. That was the place of a blueprint. Of course you're struggling. Of course you're dealing with issues. There's nothing wrong with you. You're just a real one. You are resisting the Enemy.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

- **You are wrestling not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness. Isn't it amazing that the mind that created something so magnificent as the temple experienced so much misery? Doesn't it give you hope to know that the misery you've been going through is just a clue to the magnificence? Let me say it like the Bible says it. "For our light and momentary afflictions are achieving for us a far-exceeding weight of glory." It will outweigh everything you've been through when you see what God builds.**
- I'll prove it to you right now.
- Psalm 13 is written by David about a situation that we don't even know what it was. Whatever situation he was going through when he wrote it, the situation is over, but we're still preaching about what he wrote. I said, the situation only lasted so long, but the song was longer than the situation, because I'm standing up in front of you thousands of years after he wrestled, and I'm reading what he wrote because he went through what he went through. I came to tell you that what you are going to see on the other side of this will make what you're going through feel like a short time, a little while, just a little while. And it all starts with verse 5. "I'm wrestling. How long?"
- I'm forgotten. How long? I'm forsaken. How long? You're hiding. How long? I'm losing. How long?"
- Verse 5 comes out of nowhere: "But I trust..." I trust. "But I trust..." You know how we love to shout in church about "But God"? Yeah. Sometimes it's not "But God" that you're waiting on; it's "But I." Because sometimes, when you're asking God "How long?" he's asking you the same question.
- I'll see y'all next Sunday. The Lord wanted you to know, "I've been wondering the same thing.
- I've been wondering how long you're going to let the Devil just tell you anything he wants to tell you unchallenged before you rebuke him and plead the blood of Jesus for everything concerning your life. How long?" Oh, I love it. I'm happy. Don't think I'm mad.
- I'm not mad at you. I'm happy for you, because God said he's about to butt in.
- God said you're wrestling with some stuff that's unclean, unfamiliar, unmanageable, overwhelming. "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation."
- (Put me in F sharp.) Verse 6: "I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me."
- **When you have hit your limit... "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled." When you have hit your limit... "Come to the waters, all you who are thirsty, and buy. Come, buy bread and milk without price." You can get it for free if you come on your knees. He said, "You need a new loop." "You've been in the "How long till it gets better?" loop. "How long till it changes?" loop. "How long am I going to be like this?" loop. "How long are they going to ignore me?" loop. I want to get you in a new loop of how good God has already been to you.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

- Something just shifted in David in verse 5. I can tell it. He realized, "I can't fight this like a lion. I can't fight this like a bear. I can't fight this like my previous fights.
- I've got to fight this by getting in a new loop, like when I killed the lion and when I killed the bear and I started thinking to myself how great my God was, not how big my giant was. But I trust..."
- When he said, "But..." When God butted in... He ends his song not singing about the struggle but singing about the goodness of God. "...for he has been good to me." Sometimes you get this message, sometimes you watch these videos, and sometimes you listen to this podcast, and you get the lesson, but you don't get in the loop. You don't get in the loop.
- You think worship is over because you've got to get out to your car, and you think you've got to get to your car because you've got to get to your lunch, and you've got to get to your lunch because you've got to get back home and take your nap, and you've got to take your nap so you can still wake up tired and go into another week talking about, "God, how long?"
- **How long? David said, "I don't know, but not as long as my song, because I'm going to outsing my struggle." Hear me if you can. "I am going to out-praise this problem." Let me go deeper. "I am going to out-trust this trouble."**
- It's a sign that I can't fight it in my own flesh. I wrestle not against flesh and blood. I'm wrestling against a high thing, but I have a higher thing. So, I will sing and praise, for he has... Everybody say, "He has been good to me." You might even get convinced. You might say, "He has been so good to me."
- In January of 2023, we were having a recording, and we got together to write some songs before the recording. Me and Brandon and Chandler wrote a song one night called "Been So Good." The chorus just said...You have been so good to me, God, I can't believe how you love me, What a friend you have been...Wow. Do you see what happened, how you just started singing it again and you almost can't stop singing it? That's because we wrote it to be a loop. Here's what that means. The first line of that chorus, which we ripped off from Psalm 13:6, which we got from David, who felt like God had left him, but he sang a song that lasted longer than his trouble... This trouble is not going to last as long as my song.
- If the Devil thinks he's going to outlast me, he's got another thing coming. Me and the Devil are having a staring contest right now, and I'm looking unto Jesus.
- I'm taking my eyes off the wind and the waves. I don't know how long this storm is going to last, but somebody shout, "Not as long as my song." So, is it possible that God doesn't always deliver us from it but calls us to decide in it? David said, "But I trust in your unfailing love..."
- "And I'll sing. If the trouble lasts seven days, I'm going to sing eight. I will sing.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Church Sermon notes – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

- If this illness lasts three months, I'll sing three months and 14 hours, because I'm going to outsing this struggle. I'm going to outsing this doubt. I'm going to outsing this issue with my prodigal child. I'm going to out-praise it, you understand, because I'm changing levels."
- The way it works is this. The first line of the chorus leads into the last line of the chorus. I'll show you. ...how you love me, What a friend you have been...First line. So good to me, God, I can't believe how you love me, What a friend you have been...You can't stop singing, can you? You can't stop praising, can you? Because you got in the loop.
- See, that's the loop I want you living in this week. Not how hard it has been, but... You have been so good to me, God, I can't believe how you love me...Stop singing just a second. I've got to tell you something. When we sang the song at the recording, it literally went 18 minutes in the room, and the church had never heard it before. You don't believe me. I took a screenshot of the voice memo of the front-of-house mix from the night we recorded. Look at the time stamp on this. I don't know if you can see it. Eighteen minutes and 47 seconds of a song the church had never sung. Why? Because it took a line and made it a loop.
- That's what needs to happen in your heart, you understand. So, you just start thanking him. Now, be careful. The Devil will attack your thankfulness. He will attack your gratitude, because if he can keep you down here fighting, he can keep you down here losing and gasping for breath and feeling sorry for yourself.
- Because if I start thanking him for the new day, I might start thinking I'm going to make it till tomorrow. And if I start thanking him that I'm going to make it till tomorrow, I might start thinking he has a hope and a future for me. And if I start thanking him that he has a hope and a future for me, I might get some friends and make a plan to move my life forward. And if I start thanking him for the new people he brought into my life, I might start thinking I don't have to do this by myself.
- And if I start thanking him that I'm not in this by myself, I might start praising him at the midnight hour. Hey, Paul. Hey, Silas. How long are you going to be in this prison? How long is your sentence? Silas said, "I don't know, but not as long as my song." I've got a song at midnight. I've got a song through the ages. Sing it again! Lift your hands! Trust in God!

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Sermon Discussion – “When God Gives You A Thought” - Pastor Furtick - July 27, 2025

“How much have the wrong thoughts cost you? Because God, your God, the God who speaks by impressions, instructions, and even interruptions, might be using this storm to give a thought to you.”

The psalmist in Psalm 13 has a prayer to lift to God, and it starts like this: "How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, 'I have overcome him,' and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love..."

“Do you see how that just lifted? This psalm is a lament. It's a cry for help. It's filled with anguish. It's in the tone of sorrow, but there is a lift within the lament. There is a lift within your lament today. When you cry to God, he won't just leave you crying. "For weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes with the morning." Somebody say, "Good morning." "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me."

“When you get in that place of "How long? How long?..." You can only be strong for so long. You can only feel forgotten for so long. You can only feel taken for granted for so long. You can only do for others so long and say, "A 'thank you' would be nice, but I'm not doing it for a 'thank you'; I'm doing it for the Lord." And then you explode on us, because even the nicest, most polite, most servant-hearted person can only serve strong for so long before you start wondering, "How long till they reciprocate for me?" “How long will you forget me? How long will you hide from me?" He actually says something that I know we've all felt in here: "How long will my enemy triumph over me?" In other words, when Will I Get A Win?

Is anybody here today?

Stated another way: “What do you do when you hit your limit? I'm speaking to somebody today. You feel like, "I have hit my limit. I'm a pretty strong person, but I've hit my limit. I can carry a lot, but I have hit my limit.”

I'm wrestling with my thoughts. I'm wrestling with some secrets. I'm wrestling with some shame. I'm wrestling with some strong temptation. I'm wrestling with some "Not me." I'm wrestling with some "Why me?" I'm wrestling with some "What about me?" Well, I am not wrestling anymore with flesh and blood, but I am wrestling against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

So what is a plan when we get there?

I'm wrestling with my thoughts. I'm wrestling with some secrets. I'm wrestling with some shame. I'm wrestling with some strong temptation. I'm wrestling with some "Not me." I'm wrestling with some "Why me?" I'm wrestling with some "What about me?" Well, I am not wrestling anymore with flesh and blood, but I am wrestling against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

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So what is a plan when we get there?

The Devil will come at you so many different ways and have you been standing still so long, - "Change levels." If you've been down too long, stand up and praise the Lord. Wake up the lion inside of your lungs.

Change levels. For we wrestle not against low things; we wrestle against high things. And if I'm wrestling against a high thing, I know a higher thing that can bring it down. I cast down strongholds. I cast down depression. I cast down fear. I cast down panic. I cast down shame. I cast down suicide. I cast it!

I'm wrestling with my thoughts. I'm wrestling with some secrets. I'm wrestling with some shame. I'm wrestling with some strong temptation. I'm wrestling with some "Not me." I'm wrestling with some "Why me?" I'm wrestling with some "What about me?" Well, I am not wrestling anymore with flesh and blood, but I am wrestling against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

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You are wrestling not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness. Isn't it amazing that the mind that created something so magnificent as the temple experienced so much misery? Doesn't it give you hope to know that the misery you've been going through is just a clue to the magnificence? Let me say it like the Bible says it. "For our light and momentary afflictions are achieving for us a far-exceeding weight of glory." It will outweigh everything you've been through when you see what God builds.

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So what is a plan when we get there?

When you have hit your limit... "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled." When you have hit your limit... "Come to the waters, all you who are thirsty, and buy. Come, buy bread and milk without price." You can get it for free if you come on your knees. He said, "You need a new loop."

How long? David said, "I don't know, but not as long as my song, because I'm going to outsing my struggle." Hear me if you can. "I am going to out-praise this problem." Let me go deeper. "I am going to out-trust this trouble."

Sermon Discussion – “Not As Long As My Song” - Pastor Furtick – August 10, 2025

- “If the storm keeps raging, keep singing.” What’s a worship song you’ll keep “on a loop” in this season?

Back up slides



July 18 – Daily Devotional:

“There is nothing miraculous about the things that we can explain. We command what we are able to explain, consequently it is natural to seek to explain. It is not natural to obey; nor is necessarily sinful to disobey. If one man says to another – You must and you shall, he brakes the human spirit and unfits it for God. Many a soul begins to come to God when he flings off being religious, because, there is only one master of the human heart, and that is not religion but Jesus Christ. But woe be to me if when I see Him I say – I will not. He will never insist that I do, but I have begun to sign the death warrant of the Son of God in my soul. When I stand face to face with Jesus Chris and say – I will not, **He will never insist, but I am backing away form the re-creating power of His redemption.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

What if we found the reason for life? Why we were created? Why we were designed? And conformed to that and then honored that?

If there is a design, there is a designer. And if there is a designer, the logos has come. Not some abstract philosophical principle. **It is a person.**

The designer has punched a hole into the world and he has descended. And you were built not to just honor some philosophical principle. But you were built to know and love this divine person. When you know him and when you serve him and you find out what he built you for, when you comply with it and submit yourself to him, you find out who you are. And you are now able to reach your potential.

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

“Life and Leadership at the Highest” A quote from an unknown author and requoted by Pastor Tim Keller in his sermon “This is Jesus” part 4 “Two Grieving Sisters Encounter Jesus” at Oxford University in 2016: “The accounts of Him in the New Testament speak for themselves – He combines qualities that no one has ever seen – despite his incredible claims, we never see him pompous, offended, or standing on his own dignity. Despite being absolutely approachable to the weakest and most broken people, he is completely fearless before the powerful and the corrupt. Despite being weary and lonely, we find him remarkably human - filled with joy, fear, love, and anger. Yet, we never see him Moody. We never see him being inconsistent. We never see Him strong when He should be tender and we never see Him tender when He should be strong. Most interesting of all – Of all his encounters with people - we are continuously surprised – shocking us - but never disappointing us – it is difficult for us to imagine words that Jesus ought to have said or deeds that he ought to have done. Nothing he has done ever falls short - in fact He is always surprising us - because He is incomparably better than what we could imagine for ourselves. Why? These are the surprises of perfection – He has tenderness without weakness – He has strength without harshness – humility without the slightest lack of confidence – unhesitating authority without the slightest sense of self-absorption – Holy and unbending convictions without the slightest lack of approachability – power without insensitivity – passion without prejudice – there is never a false step – there’s never a jarring no – this is life at the highest.”