

## God's Dwelling Place is Lovely

Ps 84 — “How lovely is Your dwelling place....” All of His dwelling places are lovely, whatever *lovely* means. If they are not lovely they are not His dwelling places.

In the past we went everywhere looking for God's people. We went to all these places, but if we saw that the place wasn't taken care of, we'd drive on. We saw that the screen doors were broken, the garbage wasn't taken out, etc. We went on. It wasn't lovely. We knew it wasn't God's dwelling place.

God's dwelling place is lovely, whatever *lovely* means. It is kept in order. There are always princes who rule and delegate and make things happen. They make sure that we come to the minchah on time. If the time is 6:30 we come at 6:30 and not at 6:31. We come on one impulse. The musicians start playing. No one is ever late unless they are totally justified, because they had extenuating circumstances.

*Lovely* includes beauty, harmony, and grace...

“My soul longs for Your courts.” That's the minchah. My soul longs for the minchah, for wherever worship goes on. We have courts. We had a court in St Joseph. It was so beautiful. It was made out of sand. You could dance there. It makes me almost cry to think about it.

“My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.”

If you ever see a place that's not lovely, you know it's not the dwelling place of the living God. You have to judge right, though, and not just by what the eye sees and the ear hears.

Lovely means delightful, with beauty, harmony, and grace.

We're His dwelling place. We're all lovely. If we're beauty, harmony, and grace, our physical house will be lovely.

“Happy are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You.” It says *blessed*, but it means *happy*.

It's amazing how we can keep everything so good when we work together and serve. We keep ourselves good. The Holy Spirit keeps us. That's why we have chores. We do them consistently, loyally.

We have sextons. They always keep everything in order. If there is a plumbing problem, they take care of it right away. We have a suggestion box. If you have a suggestion to upgrade the property, write it down, put your name on it and throw it in the suggestion box. Once a week the sextons get together and decide on the most pressing needs. If you ever have a house without a sexton, flee to next community that has one.

We keep His dwelling place lovely. If you see an elder or overseer who sends the sextons to make money, it may not be His dwelling place. We give no reason for Gentiles to say that we're filthy, dirty, bad communities. We've inherited that stigma from all the places that are like that, where no one takes the garbage out or cleans around the door knobs. A visitor comes and looks at it. He knows something is wrong somewhere. "Something is rotten in Denmark," the saying goes. They don't keep it clean, neat, tidy.

We have to have meetings: elders' meetings, social meetings, cooks' meetings, sextons' meetings, café meetings... We need to have leaders that delegate. Everyone is always doing their part in keeping His dwelling place lovely. We are keeping our family lovely and His house lovely. The house represents us; we represent our Master.

In Germany everyone takes care of their part, I guarantee you. The city doesn't have to come in. In America we might wait for the health department to come in. We have to be different. We have to close our cafés if they're not perfect. We put much effort into representing our Master publicly. There is no dirt around the doorknobs, the bathroom is perfect, so is the silverware, and there is no hair in the sandwich. There is no complaint about us, otherwise we can just go into the woods, never to be seen.

If we are in a place like this [*the Peace River Farm, which is somewhat remote*] we'll always be in town. That's why we got the house in downtown Arcadia. They can't accuse

us of being away from society, doing secret things. It wasn't good enough for David Koresh<sup>1</sup> to go downtown once in awhile. We need a witness downtown, not just one man.

1 Pet 2:12 — It's observable. We have to be in a place where they can observe our behavior. Jn 13:34-35 — It was very difficult for the world to see us loving one another when we were Christians. There is no difference between Christians and the world.

Last year when we were here we started talking about getting a house in town. Otherwise we'd have sold this place. If we get farms they shouldn't be as secluded as this place here. We can get a little farm in town like Hillsboro, where the land is adjacent to the main street. The Basin Farm is almost too secluded. We had a café there. It was nice.

I know you know these things already, but since we colonize it's good to repeat them so we'd have them really in us. We have to go to every township in our designated geographical areas. If you've done everything perfectly for people to believe and they don't receive you, we may not need to be there in such a place anymore. We can shake the dust off our feet. How many towns are there in Massachusetts alone?

We must make disciples here. Otherwise we don't need to be here. We have to make disciples from this town. A lot of leaders don't think about colonizing. We have to always be thinking towards starting another community somewhere else. If we meet someone from a neighboring town and they receive the gospel we should go to them. That's what we pray for.

Ha-êmeq — "The highway to His city runs through our heart." What's a highway? If you want to get quickly somewhere, you go on the highway. You can't let anything block the highway. We're going from city to city. That's the highway to the kingdom. Don't just settle in. To go to the next city that's on the highway. We have to be focused on another city. If we're just happy and content here, we won't be thinking of another city.

---

<sup>1</sup> The leader of the *Branch Davidians*, a religious community in Waco, Texas, that lived in a secluded compound, which eventually proved to be disastrous.

We always make His dwelling place lovely. Our neighbors said, "What I've seen you doing on that house makes me glad you're our neighbor." That's why we need to take care of all the little things, like the screen door, the places around the doorknobs, etc.

Remember when our Master sent people out in twos. That's where we got it from. If leaders don't do that they won't be blessed. We made many disciples this way. We will go through many towns in our geographical areas before we flee. When the Race begins we're on the go. We will be sending out people, we'll be sending walkers to other towns, setting up tables. We won't be knocking on people's doors, but we'll be there for them.

1 Pet 2:12 — If there is no witness in a town, the people in that town can't judge themselves as to whether they are worthy or unworthy of eternal life. We can't be ashamed of the gospel. If we're not ashamed it becomes the power unto salvation. If we're ashamed it deprives us of its power.

We need delegators and leaders. No one just sits around. We go pick up trash, glass in the yard, debris. We were the debris people in Nova Scotia. We picked up every day and it was clean afterwards. We want to be good stewards. We will be judged on our stewardship.

Judah, Manasseh, Benjamin, and even Gad will occupy Florida. Representatives of the tribes will always be getting together, sending people, rotating them every three years. The people from the tribal areas of Judah, Manasseh, Benjamin, and Gad go to Florida for vacations. Sometimes we keep people for a long time and don't rotate. It takes a lot to get started. We have to take a lot of brunt to get it off the ground and get started. We have to suffer.

Baruch — It's like a person sleeping in a car, windows rolled up. The engine is running and there is carbon monoxide coming in and the person inside is dying without even knowing it. That's the condition of the world and of Christianity. They are dying. We're the only ones to knock on the window, waking them up. "You're dying, suffocating."