

## You Have a Reservation

Texts:

Psalm 27: 4-8; Revelation 3:20; Luke 19: 1-9; Acts 10: 41; Luke 24: 13-35

### OPEN

Do people often confide in you? Do you find strangers telling you their life story? Do you open up to your friends and family when you are struggling with something? Are you transparent and vulnerable?

### Read 1 John 4:18-19

- How does this passage speak to you when you think about opening up and telling someone your story?
- Do you give people, and yourself, permission to be publicly imperfect?

### DISCUSS

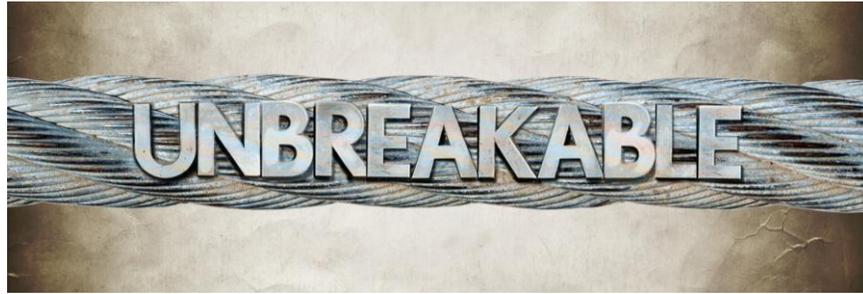
We have been looking at a way to live an UNBREAKABLE life in the community of Christ. Strong, resilient and unbreakable are the characteristics of a life that is well spent in a community that lifts up the values of communication, vulnerability, commitment, appreciation, encouragement and quality time spent together. This week Pastor Bill Clark shared his vision for another one of those core values: time spent in worship.

We worship in relative safety. But around the world, the persecuted church is struggling to find a safe place to worship.

- What have you been seeing and hearing around the world about Christians who worship in fear?
- Imagine what it would be like to worship in secrecy.
- Discuss how your small group would function if you lived in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, or China? What challenges would you face? Would your faith look any different?

Pastor Clark pointed us to one definition of Resilience: "The capacity of a strained body to recover its' size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress."

- How does worship help you recover your "size and shape" after a particularly tough week?
- Do you take your worship into the week? What has helped you do that?



**Read Psalm 27: 4-8 (NIV below)**

- Now, read it again and circle any words or phrases that particularly speak to you.

4 One thing I ask from the Lord,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple.

5 For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
and set me high upon a rock.

6 Then my head will be exalted  
above the enemies who surround me;  
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

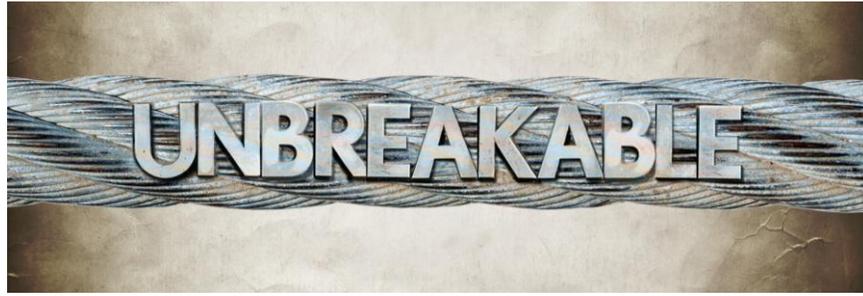
7 Hear my voice when I call, Lord;  
be merciful to me and answer me.

8 My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

- So, how are these verses speaking to you right now?

Pastor Clark reminded us that one day we will be in His presence, but we can also be drawn into His presence during worship.

- What draws you into worship?
- The reading of His word?
- An amazing worship Song?
- A powerful Sermon?
- Prayer?



**Read Revelation 3:20** (NIV below, like you did with the passage above and discuss):

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

**Read in Luke 19: 1-9**, that Jesus delighted in dining with the unlikely. He spent the evening at the home of Zacchaeus, who was a high official in the despised profession of tax collecting.

**Read in Acts 10:41**, and see that Jesus dined with those whom God had selected as witnesses, after He rose from the dead.

**Read in Luke 24: 13-35**, and see Jesus appearing to two heart-broken members of the Christian family who were walking on the Emmaus road and talking about the death of Jesus.

- Talk about the unbreakable family of God that Jesus was building in all 4 of these readings above.
- How are you responding to the invitation of Jesus to dine with Him? With others?

## **YOUR NEXT STEP...**

Take some time to find a quiet place to pray about God's community. Ask God to reveal to you what community might look like for you if you followed His example. Ask Him to show you where and how you might be able to build His kind of community.

- Are you where God wants you to be?
- Do you have the kind of unbreakable community that will build resiliency into your life?

**Read Romans 12: 3-8 and 13; then read 1 Corinthians 12: 26-27**

## **Challenge:**

Plan a dinner party. Now pray about the next part: Invite a guest or guests that quickly come to mind. Now, invite a guest or guests that you wouldn't ordinarily think about inviting. Ask God to place their name on your heart. And like Jesus who said to Zacchaeus, I must stay at your house today, pray that this dinner will unlock a divine purpose... pray that it will create a more unbreakable community.