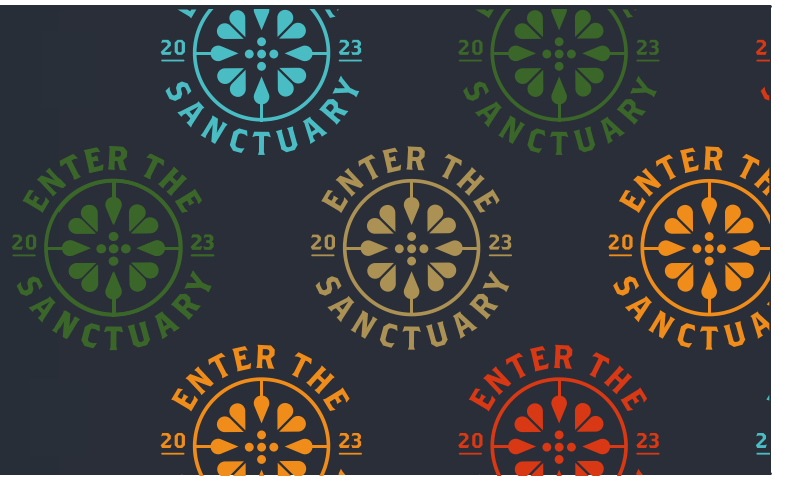


Finding Sanctuary in Your Every Day

DEVOTIONAL BY KELLY ADKINS



Where is your “sanctuary” – the place you find the most peace?



What makes that place a “sanctuary” for you?

Sanctuary is all over scripture, so let’s look at a few places that it’s mentioned.

Circle any words that stand out to you:



- *Exodus 25:8: Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.*
- *Psalms 63:2: I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.*
- *1 Chronicles 22:19: Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God; arise, therefore, and build the sanctuary of the Lord God.*

Hebrews 9:24: For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.



Note that in these verses, the sanctuary was on the move: the first verse refers to the Tabernacle of Aaron that accompanied the Israelites through the wilderness; the second is talking about the Tabernacle of David; the third is the Temple of Solomon; and the fourth isn't even on earth – it's the “true” and eternal sanctuary of heaven.



As we learned in Pastor Rick's devotional, **what makes a place a sanctuary, according to scripture, is not a structure or time or place, but God Himself.** *I will dwell among them...His power and glory...In God's presence. We find Him in the sanctuary when we set our hearts and our souls to seek the Lord our God.*



GOD'S PRESENCE IS WHAT MAKES SANCTUARY A THING.

Now, go back to our very first questions: *Where is your sanctuary, and what makes that place a sanctuary for you?* If you're feeling bad right now because you didn't mention God's presence, look again, because you probably did.

The things you experience when you describe your “sanctuary” – stillness or family or love or music or memories or water or working out or whatever else – are some of the ways God is making His presence known in your life. **Don't just look for the gifts, look for Him, and the next time you're in your sanctuary, worship Him.**



God desires for us to have more of His presence – more sanctuary – in our every day. We'll read Isaiah 8:11-17 a few verses at a time to help you know how to find it:

For the Lord spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying:

“Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread.

“But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

We all have fears. But the formula for sanctuary starts with being set apart from the world even in the things we worry about – don't walk in the way of these people – don't be afraid of what they're afraid of. Don't be suspicious and anxious about your lives in the same way that you see people living on the news.

What are some things you're afraid of – your biggest worries? Write them here >>

In the Bible's always-upside-down way of thinking, Isaiah tells us that the formula for getting rid of fear is more fear! **We can relieve our fears in this world only by replacing them with a fear of the Lord.**

We don't usually like to think of God with words like *Let Him be your fear, let Him be Your dread*. But notice what Isaiah says right before those words: *Him You shall honor as holy*.

OUR FEARS WILL ALWAYS DETERMINE WHAT WE WORSHIP — WHAT WE GIVE POWER TO.

If anxieties or conspiracies or worries are what you've honored as "holy" and given the most power over your life today, start replacing them with God's promises about who He is, and what He has done, and what He's promised He will do in your life and the world.

TO FIND SANCTUARY, WE MUST CHANGE THE FOCUS OF OUR FEAR.

Let's read on:

*"And he will become a **sanctuary** and a **stone of offense** and a **rock of stumbling** to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

"And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken."



This extraordinary bio of Jesus (we know it's Jesus because Christ himself quoted it in Matthew 21, and Peter did too) isn't something you'd necessarily put on His Instagram, with all its *offense* and its *breaking and snaring and taking*.



Here, Jesus becomes both the sanctuary and a roadblock to it. He is both The Way and a big blinking Bob's Barricade in front of it.



The *both houses* mentioned here are Israel and Judah, often compared to the brothers in the parable of The Prodigal Son – the rule-follower and the rebel. Turns out it doesn't matter which is which, though, because Jesus is breaking them both.



Are you naturally a rule-follower? Or a rebel? _____



Maybe you try to build a sanctuary out of your favorite sins, or, even more dangerously, out of your favorite form of righteousness. If we depend on our good works or good pleasure to find peace, we'll stumble and smash ourselves over the grace of Jesus every time.

We'll never find sanctuary because we're perfecting our presence, not looking for His. The ticket for entry is that we see Him as our only hope.

The door of the sanctuary is only wide enough for His mercy. The way to the kingdom is narrow because it doesn't leave room for you to drag your works along with His grace.

The Rock of Ages stands in the road, asking you to lay down your burdens, trust Him alone, and find peace.



**TO FIND
SANCTUARY,
WE MUST
LET JESUS
BE JESUS.**



If sanctuary feels far away from your soul today – if you feel like God is hiding His face – know that the leaders of Grace are always praying for you. Remember to look for His presence, not just ask Him to enhance your own. Like Isaiah, we put our dreams for your life in His hands, and wait on His work in us:

I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him.