

April 13, 2025

"The Weakest Refuge" – Bobby Warrenburg

Psalm 8

<sup>1</sup> Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,

<sup>4</sup> what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

<sup>5</sup> You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:

<sup>7</sup> all flocks and herds,  
and the animals of the wild,

<sup>8</sup> the birds in the sky,  
and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Text: Psalm 8

Themes: God's majesty, human weakness, divine strength in vulnerability, and the paradox of God's power displayed through the "foolish" (1 Cor. 1:27).

Key Points:

#### **God's Majestic Power (vv. 1-2, 9)**

- The psalm opens and closes with praise for God's majesty, seen in creation (stars, moon, galaxies—"the work of His fingers").
- Yet His "stronghold" against enemies is established through "the praise of children and infants" (v. 2)—a seeming paradox.

#### **Human Smallness and Divine Care (vv. 3-5)**

- In light of the cosmos, humanity seems insignificant ("What is mankind that You are mindful of them?").
- Yet God crowns humans with glory, giving them dominion (vv. 5-8), mirroring Genesis 1:26-28.

### The Weakness Paradox

- The sermon contrasts worldly strength (fortresses, armies) with God's "stronghold" of childlike praise and Jesus' Palm Sunday entry on a donkey (Matt. 21:16).
  - Examples: *Beethoven's deafness* led to his greatest compositions.
  - *Thornton Wilder's play*: A physician's unhealed wound became his power to heal others.
  - Jesus' kingdom advances through humility (Phil. 2:5-8), not force.

### Application

- God often uses our limitations (failures, wounds, weaknesses) as channels for His strength (2 Cor. 12:9).
- Surrender our "brokenness" to God, trusting He can redeem it for His glory and others' good.

1. Read Psalm 8:1-2. How does the psalmist describe God's majesty? Why is it surprising that His "stronghold" is built through "children and infants"?
2. Compare Psalm 8:3-4 with Genesis 1:26-28. What tension do you see between humanity's smallness and God's assignment of dominion?
3. Jesus quotes Psalm 8:2 on Palm Sunday (Matt. 21:16). How does His entry on a donkey (Zech. 9:9) reflect God's "stronghold in weakness"?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-29. How does Paul echo the theme of Psalm 8? Why does God choose the "weak" to confound the "strong"?
5. How does Jesus' crucifixion (a moment of apparent defeat) fulfill the pattern of God's strength in weakness (e.g., John 12:24)?
6. In what ways might the Church be challenged to continue this pattern today? What are good examples of us doing this, what are areas this could challenge us? (e.g., serving the marginalized, forgiving enemies)
7. Share a time when God used a personal limitation or failure for good. How did it change your view of "strength"?
8. Why do we so often insist on projecting strength in our lives and relationships?

9. The sermon asks, "*Without your wound, where would your power be?*" How might your current struggles be a platform for God's work?
10. Psalm 8 ends with praise (v. 9). How does recognizing God's power in weakness lead us to worship?
11. Identify and reflect on one insight from this passage that you could meaningfully share with someone in your life this week. How might this idea connect with their personal experiences or challenges?

Further Meditation: Jesus and the little children Mark 10:13-16; If you have a copy of the Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones, it does an excellent job of telling this story in a way that overlaps very strongly with Psalm 8. If you have access to it, I recommend reflecting on it in your small groups.

**Closing Prayer for one another:** "*Lord, help us trust Your strength in our weakness, as You did with Jesus*"