

# THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S LIFE-BUILDING WORD

## Pursuit of Happiness

July 5, 2020

INTRODUCTION: National Treasure.

Psalm 33:12 (All verses from the New International Version 1984)

***Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.***

1. Plug into the source of happiness.

- Psalm 32:11-12 <sup>11</sup> ... ***the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance.***

2. Ignite the power of happiness.

- Psalm 32:13-15 <sup>13</sup> ***From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; <sup>14</sup> from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—<sup>15</sup> he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.***
- Psalm 32:6, 9 <sup>6</sup> ***By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. ... <sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.***

3. Share the hope of happiness.

- Psalm 32:18-19 <sup>18</sup> ***But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, <sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.***
- Psalm 32:20-22 <sup>20</sup> ***We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. <sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. <sup>22</sup> May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.***

CONCLUSION: Hoard or Help?

# G.P.S. – GROW, PRAY, STUDY GUIDE

***This week I invite you to use a spiritual habit called “Lectio Divina” (Spiritual Reading) through Psalm 33.***

## Lectio Divina

(Ruth Haley Barton – Sacred Rhythms, p. 59-61)

**Preparation/Silencio:** With your eyes closed, let your body relax, and allow yourself to become consciously aware of God’s presence with you. Express your willingness to hear from God in these moments by using a brief prayer such as “Come Lord Jesus” or “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

**Read/Lectio:** Listen for the word or phrase that is addressed to you. Turn to the passage and begin to read slowly, pausing between phrases and sentences. As you read, listen for a word or phrase that strikes you or catches your attention. Allow a moment of silence, repeating that word or phrase softly to yourself, pondering it and savoring it as though pondering the word of a loved one.

- Passage to be read is:
- The word/phrase is ...

**Reflect/Meditatio:** How is my life touched by this word?

What is it in my life right now that needs to hear this word?

If the passage is a story, perhaps ask yourself: Where am I in this scene? What do I hear as I imagine myself in the story or hear these words addressed specifically to me? How do the dynamics of this story connect with my own life experience?

**Respond/Oratio:** What is my response to God based on what I have read and encountered?

Read the passage one more time, listening for your own deepest and truest response. In silence after the reading, allow your prayer to flow spontaneously from your heart as you enter a personal dialogue with God.

**Rest/Contemplatio:** Rest in the Word of God. In this final reading you are invited to release and return to a place of rest in God.

**Resolve/Incarnatio:** Incarnate (live out) the Word of God. As you emerge from this place of personal encounter with God to life in the company of others, resolve to carry this word with you and to live it out in the context of daily life and activity.

**Day 1: Read/Lectio: *Psalm 33:1-5*: Phrase:**

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

**Day 2: Read/Lectio: *Psalm 33:6-9*: Phrase:**

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

**Day 3: Read/Lectio: *Psalm 33:10-11*. Phrase:**

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

**Day 4: Read/Lectio: *Philippians 3:12-15*. Phrase:**

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

**Day 5: Read/Lectio: *Psalm 33:16-19*. Phrase:**

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

**Day 6: Read/Lectio: *Psalm 33:20-22*. Phrase:**

- **Reflect/Meditatio:**
- **Respond/Oratio:**
- **Rest/Contemplatio:**
- **Resolve/Incarnatio:**

## **GOING DEEPER & NEXT WEEK**

- **Book: *America Looks Up* by Max Lucado**
- **Next Week: Romans 8:1-11 – No Condemnation: Resurrection**