

Psalm 16:8-11
Easter Security

Jonathan Romig gave this sermon at Immanuel Church on 4/5/2015 at the Easter Sunrise Service. Immanuel Church is the parent church of Cornerstone Congregational Church.

Immanuel: <http://www.immanuelchurch.com/>

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*See next page for preaching outline.

Psalm 16:8–11 (NIV)

8 I keep my eyes always on the Lord.

With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

*9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,*

*10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.*

*11 You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

Introduction:

1. This morning I want to tell you the story of a church planter's wife.
2. In 2012, Jason and Kara Tippets moved from NC to CO to church plant.
3. Six months later Kara was diagnosed with breast cancer.
4. They lived by Martin Luther's Q: "What will you do in the mundane days of faithfulness?"
5. She blogged (Mundane Faithfulness), wrote a book—they kept planting, she kept dying.
6. Through life's insecurities Kara Tippets found her security in Christ.
7. Today we're reading a "Miktam of David" Psalm which means "A silent prayer."
8. David wrote Psalm 16 and other Miktams in times of insecurity.
9. Where will you find your security in life's insecurities?

(Where do you find your security this Easter?)

(Are you able to say...?)

I. I am secure in life (v. 8-9)

8 I keep my eyes always on the Lord.

With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest secure,

A. I am secure in life because God is with me. (v. 8-9)

1. First, God is in front of me; he is my focus.
 - a) I have set the Lord always before me" = "I place my eyes on Yahweh continually"
2. Second, God is beside me; he is always with me.
 - a) "I will not be shaken" means "I will not be toppled, moved, slip, or fall."
3. Third, God is my joy; I trust him completely.
 - a) The heart, tongue, and body symbolize complete trust.
 - b) The Hebrew word for "secure" means "trust" and uncommon outside the OT.
 - c) God's people professed their security and trust while the nations trembled.
4. I am secure in life because God is with me.

(We are secure in life, but what about in death?)

(Can we, like David and Kara, profess our faith in the face of death?)

II. I am secure in death (v. 10)

10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

A. I am secure in death because God won't abandon me

1. "Realm of the dead" is the Hebrew word Sheol, which means "grave, underworld, void, or wasteland."
2. It also means "nether world" which might sound fun to you who play minecraft.
3. But there are no zombie pigmen in Sheol, just death, darkness, and isolation.

4. Still David trusted, writing Psalm 139:8 “If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.” (NASB95)

B. Kara didn't like death, “I feel like I'm a little girl at a party whose Dad's asking her to leave early. And I've thrown a fit. I'm not afraid of dying. I just don't want to go.”

1. We might not like death, but we can still feel secure in our Daddy who is asking us to leave.

C. We know God won't abandon us because he didn't abandon Christ.

1. In the NT, Peter and Paul quote Psalm 16, telling us that it happened to Jesus.

2. Notice that neither King David or Kara Tippets overcame the grave.

3. Only Jesus has overcome the grave by rising again on Easter morning.

4. Jesus died on our behalf so that one day we can rise again too.

(When you trust in Jesus, you can say... I am secure in life. I am secure in death. And...”

III. I am secure in Christ (v. 11)

*11 You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

A. I am secure in life and death because I am secure in Christ.

1. Through Christ Jesus God gives us three things: life, presence, and eternity.

2. Trusting in Jesus helps us experience life to its fullest.

3. By trusting in Jesus we experience the presence of the Holy Spirit.

4. And one day we too will step into eternity with Jesus at our side.

Conclusion:

1. On March 22nd 2015 Kara Tippets stepped into eternity with Jesus at her side.

2. On March 25th her blog posted her “Letter to my readers upon my death.”

It's impossible for me to not imagine coming to this place again to share my heart new with you. It seems impossible that this journey has finally come to an end. But I've done gone and flown away to the land of no more tears- won't you rejoice with me? My pain is gone, my fears are calmed, I'm in the sovereignly good hands of Jesus. He is my forever enough now. What bliss I'm sure I'm enjoying. It's hard for me to separate my feelings for that place and this.

3. Kara knew she was secure in life, in death, and in Jesus, but she didn't want to go.

4. She wanted to enjoy her husband and her four children in this world

5. My friends that is the beauty of the resurrection!

6. This life is not our last—we are secure forever.

7. One day we will return to a new heaven and earth with those who love Jesus forever.

8. Please repeat with me, “I am secure in life. I am secure in death. I am secure in Christ.”