



DAY 14



## WHEN WE WEREN'T SINGING

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**“I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants – but let them not turn to folly.”**

**Psalm 85:8**

I love the mountains; I always have. I get lost in the raw, natural beauty of creation – regardless of what’s going on in the news creation is moving along at its designed pace. I remember Christmas in 1977 when I was a teenager our family took our first ski trip to Colorado. We celebrated Christmas eve outside a small chapel in the ski village singing carols with strangers as it snowed; it was magical. What I remember most, though, is what I heard when we weren’t singing. The silence. The deafening silence of the dark, cold night while it lightly snowed. That was transformative. That’s one reason the mountains are my go-to place regardless of the season. The quiet and powerfully overwhelming silence of being in the mountains. Listening. The wind, the rivers, the snow, the animals. Peace. But I also know it’s always back to reality when I return to the foot of the mountain. Loud. Confusing. Complex. The Psalmist reminds me there are plenty of things I can choose to listen to as I go about daily life; all sorts of chatter, some good, some not. Listen. To God the Lord. Peace. He speaks. “He promises peace to his people.” He speaks clarity and completeness, not confusion. That’s truly transformative, isn’t it?



Am I giving in to life's confusion and complexity?

What am I letting interrupt the transformative, personal relationship with the God of all Creation?

Will I listen to His voice? The same voice that said, "Let there be light." Through an angel that same voice said, "Do not be afraid."

It's quite simple, really. Listen. Choose to listen. Listen to God the Lord. Peace.

The Christmas season is a mountaintop experience; a powerful reminder of God's call for us to listen to His promise. To pay attention.

*My prayer: "Father, thank you for speaking to us and forgive us for those times we don't listen to you. You are the Creator and you still love us enough to speak to each of us. Help us each to listen. Cause us to be still and listen. Cause us to be faithful to your transformative truth and not to our own ways. We love you."*

– WILLIAM NICHOLS –

