

About...

How lovely is your dwelling place

...how and why it was written

Psalm 84 is one of my favourite psalms and has been since I was a teenager and first heard Matt Redman's song based on its famous words, 'Better is one day'. If I could have written one psalm, this would be it – I have had a passion for pursuing God's presence since I was a little girl, growing up in a lively Pentecostal church where meeting him was so beautifully valued. I have long since felt more comfortable and alive in his presence, pouring out simple songs of devotion, than anywhere else.

But like so many of us, I easily get caught up in the busyness of church life, and can become over preoccupied with serving God – even sometimes with trying to earn his love through my efforts – and forget that above all it's all about lingering at his feet and worshipping.

Writing this song – my own setting of this psalm's central concept, represents one of the many times on my journey over the last few years where I have sought to draw aside with God and put down all the ministry, mission and vision for a moment to just be a little girl again – to remember that it is him above all that I seek.

...how, where and when it could be used

This song can work congregationally, but is at its strongest as a personal song of worship, or used to sing over people in response or ministry times.

...its place on the journey to where world and worship meet

Is simply this – that nothing – not even seeing transformation of individuals, poor communities, and nations – compares to this.

It starts and ends with knowing him. And if we forget him in the pursuit of the things of him – we have nothing.