Randy began his sermon with a what Joni Eareckson Tada wrote recently:

*I am the most blessed quadriplegic in the world. When pain jerks me awake at night, I first glance up. If the digital display on the ceiling says only the second watch of the night, I push through the pain and try to breathe my way back to sleep. But if the clock says 4:00 a.m., I smile. Jesus has awakened me to enjoy communion with him, even though it’ll be hours before I sit up in my wheelchair. Do I need more sleep? Of course. Will my pain subside? Unlikely. But at four in the morning, there is a more necessary thing, and it makes me happy to think that long before dawn, I am among the early ones who are blessing Jesus. Filling my chest with Jesus. Rehearsing his Scriptures, murmuring his names, and whisper-singing hymns that cascade one into another, all filled with adoration.*

* When you read or hear of a view like this what’s the first thing that pops in your head? Joy, wistfulness or skepticism?

Verse 6. …Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

The Hebrew word for “follow” is radap which means pursue or chase. Now read aloud that verse and substitute “follow” for *chase*. “Surely goodness and mercy will chase after me all of days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”.

* What picture comes in your head when you hear those words?

Randy said that God chases me to change me so that I will choose Him more and more. There’s the chase, then the change and as a result of the change, I choose Him more and more.

* Why is this order important? Why is important to realize that you’re being chased first?

CS Lewis writes in “The Weight of Glory”: *“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”*

Randy talked about the things you need, that you don’t need everything, you just need one thing.

* If you allow yourself to think about the things you need, how does that help you sift out the things that encumber your walk?

Randy talked about in Psalms 23 how, “God leads me, God is with me and behind me” and draws the picture that you are completely surrounded by God.

* How have you felt God’s relentless pursuit in your life?