



Bible Study: The Book of Psalms

Week Four: October 13, 2021

1. Honorable Welcome

- a. Did you memorize a verse from a Psalm from last week? Did you use it? Notice anything?
- b. Do you recall a person in your life acknowledged (to you) that they did something wrong and asked for forgiveness? How would you evaluate their “confession”?
- c. Our Opening Prayer: Psalm 139 (The All Knowing & Ever-Present God)

2. GROUP FOUR: Psalms of Forgiveness: Forgive Us Our Trespasses

- a. Recall the ACTS Model of Prayer: Adoration, **Contrition**, Thanksgiving & Supplication
- b. The human need for forgiveness.
- c. Mercy and forgiveness are not “natural to God” (Satan was not “forgiven”). Mercy is what happens when God looks at the sinner (who lacked the knowledge that Satan and the devils had) and God’s response is love (because God understands).
- d. The Psalms paint a picture of God’s identity and the way God works in the world. Notice that as we read and study tonight...we always want to know the “ways of God”.
- e. Read Psalms 51 & 130 (on your own)
 - i. What do you notice?
 - ii. What is the problem and what do they desire from God?
 - iii. Why are they confident that God will forgive them?

f. PSALM 51: Lord, Make Me Clean

- i. V1 – proclaim God’s steadfast love; “blot out” is a strong poetic image; the depths speaks of a spiritual pain not a physical one;
- ii. V2 – wash and cleanse; this is in V7 as well – as he prays to be cleansed by hyssop and end whiter than snow (in Israel that is true poetry)
- iii. V3 – I know my sins... In praying the Lord’s Prayer, what do you think of when you ask to be forgiven of your trespasses?
- iv. V4 – our sin offends God; you are justified in passing judgment on me
- v. V5 – I was born guilty – original sin?
- vi. V6 – teach me Lord – humility is a good place to start in our conversions
- vii. V8 – the joy and gladness will come through knowledge of God’s merciful forgiveness;
- viii. V9 – do not look at my sins (embarrassed?)
- ix. V10 – V12 create a clean heart Lord; do something new in me;
- x. V13 – V14 I will help others change Lord (I promise)
- xi. V15 – used at the start of the Liturgy of the Hours
- xii. V16 – V17 – God does not desire sacrifice as much as a contrite heart (broken in a good way)

- g. PSALM 130: Waiting, Waiting for the Lord
 - i. Notice an intro to the Psalm in your Bible?
 - ii. This is also called the “De Profundis” in Catholic Tradition; it means a deep longing of anguish.
 - iii. This Psalm is also one of the Psalms of Ascent – one of 15 (Psalms 120 to 134) that were sung as pilgrims approached Jerusalem (always up to Jerusalem)
 - iv. V1 – V2 like last week, begging for God to listen
 - v. V3 – if God kept track of our “iniquities” immoral or grossly unfair behavior
 - vi. we would be done
 - vii. V4 – there is forgiveness in you...which leads us to REVERE God
 - viii. V5 – V6 – we wait in the Lord’s word of forgiveness; more than the guard waits for the morning (recall the power of poetry)
 - ix. V7 - V8 – the urging of others (Israel) to hope in the Lord b/c of his love and power to redeem us from “iniquities”.

- h. Thoughts – reactions – comments - ?

3. Honorable Closure

- a. HOMEWORK: Pray the Psalms (51 & 130): be quiet, breathe deeply, imagine God, pray the words. Pay attention to what is happening in your heart. Additional Psalms with this theme are called Penitential Signs 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143
- b. Pray for the family from Afghanistan!
- c. Join us next week and try to invite a friend to join you too!
- d. Join Virtual Small Group Discussion as well...stay where you are folks on ZOOM (other can join Zoom link from website)

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- a. Is there a verse from Psalms 51 or 130 that you will try to memorize this week and recite often throughout the day?
- b. What is the MAIN message you hear in these Psalms? Does this inspire you in some way?
- c. Each Psalm seems to imply that God has his part to do (look past our sins and pardon our iniquities) but we also have our part to play...like what?
- d. How does the realization of your own sin affect the ways you relate to those who have offended you?
- e. Close with the Lord’s Prayer