



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

May 4th, 2022

“The Fourth Song of Ascent”

Psalm 123

THE SONGS OF DEGREES AS A WHOLE

This little psalter within the psalter consists of fifteen brief songs. Why they are grouped together and what is meant by their generic name it would be hard to tell. The conjectures are very many, but they are mere suppositions. Out of them all the conjecture by Dr. Jebb best commends itself to my own mind, though it would be quite consistent with this suggestion to believe that the series of songs are arranged by David became the Pilgrim Psalms of after ages, and were chanted by the Lord's people as they went up to the temple. They are "Songs of the Goings Up;" so some read the word. Those who delight to spiritualize everything find here Ascents of the Soul, or language fitted to describe the rising of the heart from the deepest grief to the highest delight....

—C.H.S.

PSALM 123

TITLE. —*A Song of degrees.* We are climbing. The first step (Ps. cxx) saw us lamenting our troublesome surroundings, and the next saw us lifting our eyes to the hills and resting in assured security; from this we rose to delight in the house of the Lord; but here we look to the Lord himself and this is the highest ascent of all by many degrees. The eyes are now looking above the hills, and above Jehovah's footstool on earth, to his throne in the heavens. Let us know it as "*the Psalm of the eyes.*" Old authors call it *Oculus Sperans*, or the eye of hope. It is a short psalm, written with singular art, containing one thought, and expressing it in a most engaging manner. Doubtless it would be a favourite song among the people of God. It has been conjectured that this brief song, or rather sigh, may have first been heard in the days of Nehemiah, or under the persecutions of Antiochus. It may be so, but there is no evidence of it; it seems to us quite as probable that afflicted ones in all periods after David's time found this psalm ready to their hand. If it appears to describe days remote from David, it is all the more evident that the Psalmist was also a prophet, and sang what he saw in vision.

The Treasury of David

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME VI, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 123

REFLECTION. Every thought of the Lord Jesus Christ continually sought the glory of His heavenly Father (v1; John 5:19). The Lord Jesus, as the extolled Servant of the LORD, served the Father vigilantly, with His spiritual eyes ever upon Him (v2; Isa 52:13; John 5:30). Jesus secured mercy for you and me by His perfect sacrifice on Calvary's tree (vv3-4; 2 Cor 5:21).

APPLICATION. When are we ever given permission to avert the eyes of our faith from the Lord Jesus? Never (v1; Heb 1:3). To know God’s will in Christ for our lives, is like the servant who waits upon the dinner table, standing by the Master of the feast, looking for the slightest indication from Him— a nod, a gesture, pushing His plate away, etc. —so we may respond; filling His cup, clearing His place, bringing out His dessert, and so forth (v2; Heb 12:2). Because of the corruptions still remaining in our mortal flesh, we need Christ’s constant supply of gracious mercy; for a single look upon the enthroned King tells the soul we need His mercy above all things (v3; Heb 4:16). The weakness of our flesh is contemptible before His royal highness, and because our corruptible mortality continually falls short of God’s glory in Christ, our souls have had quite enough of this struggle (v4), and we pray to hasten the Lord Jesus’ coming (Song 7:14; Rev 22:20).

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 123

REFLECT upon the first verse and “seeing” our ascended Lord Jesus seated as King upon the throne. Consider what distractions you have encountered in the past to keep your attention from Christ, and your focus upon something else other than Christ. How did those things arise? When do they typically occur? Does this discourage you when it happens? How do you react or respond as a result?

READ COLOSSIANS 3:23. How does this New Testament verse help you to understand verses 1 and 2? How does this New Testament verse help you apply verses 1 and 2 to your day to day life?

RESPOND to this devotional challenge with this: when you catch yourself distracted from “lifting up” your eyes to the enthroned Lord, and you find yourself being discouraged by your failure, seek Christ’s mercy from reading verses 3 and 4; that is, look to the atoning grace and mercy of the Lord Jesus’ sufferings, death, and resurrection. Is it powerful enough to cause you to rejoice in His sacrifice on the cross? Is His supply of mercy more than you can ask or think? Prepare to give your testimony next week.

What to Pray for This Week:

1. May the blessed truth of Your Word minister to us as we pray.
2. May our prayers begin sounding like those prayed in Scripture because You're conforming our lives to Christ.
3. May our focus in prayer be upon You, and not for the ears of man.
4. Pour out Your Spirit upon Christ's church, and upon the world.
5. Purify Your children, and unite us to worship You in Christ, with one heart, one mind and one accord.
6. Raise up godly ministers unto Your harvest, and bless those who are already laboring in Your field.
7. Be merciful unto us by bringing saving faith to our unsaved family, friends, neighbors, the village of Ninilchik, and all the residents of the Kenai Peninsula.
8. Remove from us all pride, haughtiness and arrogance, and make us ever watchful against the flesh and every temptation from the enemy.
9. Humble us as we commune with You in prayer, and keep us from lip-service, from deedless word religion and heartless works religion.
10. Teach us to abide in Christ each time we pray; that our hearts may be knit to His so we may glorify You.

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