

Will I Do the Same?

This week's readings fall within one of the most beautifully written books in the Bible—the Psalms. The chapters and verses covered range from prayers of praise and thanksgiving to cries for help, deliverance, and salvation. As I read through these Psalms, I was struck by two key takeaways -- the characteristics of the psalmists and the characteristics of God.

First and foremost, I was moved by the way the psalmists pray. They come before the Lord and bare their souls. It seems that nothing is left hidden or unsaid. They speak to the Father with such openness and honesty, unafraid to pour out what is on their hearts and minds. We see this especially in times of trouble. The psalmists are unashamed to share completely with the Lord. Do I open myself up to God in this way?

We also learn that the psalmists praise God at all times. Whether they are in seasons of joy or seasons of affliction, they are praising the name of God. How easy is it to forget how good and powerful our God is when life is good? It usually takes a season of challenge or heartbreak to remind us that God is in control and that He is supremely good. However, we see the psalmists praising and acknowledging the name of the Father in both good times and in difficult ones. Do I praise God at all times?

Another notable characteristic of the psalmists is their utter dependence on God. They have tasted and seen that

Lord is the good and know that coming before Him is always the answer. Their hope is firmly rooted in God as the only source of salvation. Is my hope rooted in the salvation I have through Jesus Christ?

Finally -- and most importantly -- these psalms teach us about the characteristics of God. We see the psalmists define God in a multitude of ways: God is a rock, a redeemer, a rescuer, a helper, a refuge, and a righteous judge. God is good, loving, mighty, powerful, faithful, and compassionate. God hears our cries and our calls. God takes action on our behalf. God pulls us out of the water and redeems our life from the pit. God fills us with life. God destroys our enemies and lifts us up. He delivers us, redeems us, and provides us with salvation. This is our God. The psalmists knew this deep within their souls. That is why they opened themselves up to Him, praised Him, and rooted their hope in Him. Will I do the same? Will you?

~ *Josh Sinnema*

May 13th Readings

PSALM 68-70

PSALM 86

PSALM 101

May 14th Readings

PSALM 103

PSALM 108-110

PSALM 122

PSALM 124

May 15th Readings

PSALM 131

PSALM 133

PSALM 138-141

PSALM 143

May 16th Readings

PSALM 144-145

PSALM 88-89

May 17th Readings

PSALM 50
PSALM 73-74

May 18th Readings
PSALM 75-78

May 19th Readings
PSALM 79-82