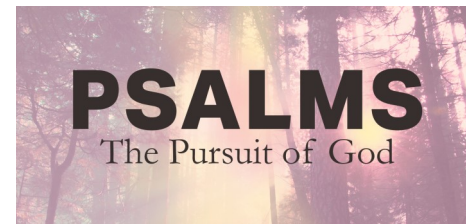


NOTES:



Groups Sermon Study Questions

PRECIOUS TIME

March 11, 2018

Series Summary

Psalm 107 is a call to praise addressed to God's people. Believers praise God for his character and his acts of redemption and provision. In times of trouble, we can cry out to God, and he will answer. Then giving thanks will transform our emotional attitude, situation, and spiritual perspective.

Consider This

Why do you think some people are reluctant to ask for help, either from others or God?

What are some ways we can know that God cares about his people's problems?

Why do some people frequently complain while others in similar circumstances give thanks? How does each such person affect those around him or her?

How do you feel when you complain? How do you feel when you name things to be thankful for? Do you have a choice which you do?

Study Questions

Written during the Babylonian exile, the psalmist first gave thanks for God's character in Psalm 107.

1. Read verses 8, 15, 21 and 31. Four times the psalmist praises God for his character first and then for his acts. How might this emphasis on God's character first, before his actions apply to our faith when we encounter difficult circumstances?

2. Do you tend to trust in God's good character, his love and forgiveness, or do you focus on trusting God to act when difficult circumstances come into your life? What can happen to our perspective when we focus on one or the other alone?

3. What is the greatest act of Love that God has done for you?

4. In Psalm 107, the psalmist lists four difficult circumstances that the people found themselves enmeshed within. Match the following verses to the appropriate circumstances.

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| a. 4-5 | 1. They reel from natural disasters, illness and accident |
| b. 10-12 | 2. They were fools, making stupid decisions |
| c. 17-18 | 3. They know about God but rebelled. They screwed up. |
| d. 23-27 | 4. They're lost, wandering about without a knowledge of God. |

5. What circumstances were a result of the people's bad choices? Which were more or less a result of natural disasters (causes)?

6. After facing (admitting) their circumstances, the people cried out to God four times (vs, 6, 13, 19, and 28). The word "cried" carries the idea of calling out loud, even in public. Why do you think it is important to talk aloud to God sometimes?

7. Four times God responded to the people's cry for help (vs 7, 14, 20, and 29). How did God answer in each circumstance? How might those types of responses apply to us today? Do you think God's responses were immediate?

8. Verses 33-41 are rightly translated in the present tense. What does that tell us about God's providential governing of the world today?

Moving Forward

1. What effect do you generally have on others when difficulties arise? Why? Will you commit to reacting in a more positive way when you encounter difficulties this week?

2. In Psalm 107:2 and 32, God's people are told to speak out publically about God's goodness. Can you think of an opportunity this week where you could speak out publically for God?

3. Since giving thanks transforms our emotional attitude, spiritual perspective and ultimately our situation, commit to writing down five things each morning for which you can thank God. Do this for seven days, and you will have thirty-five praises to God. Plan on sharing your list with the group next time you meet.