



**Sermon Series:** Life Changing Lessons

**Sermon Title:** Know Your Destination

**Speaker/ Date:** Cameron Baker, August 15, 2021

Psalm 122 is a traveler's guide to worshiping God Almighty.

Big Idea: **Travel with purpose and rejoice: God is always with you.**

Psalm 122 is known as a psalm of pilgrimage or a song of ascent. The pilgrimage songs were meant to bind the faithful of God together and prepare them for the worship that lay ahead of them in Jerusalem.

These psalms were written at a time when the most important, most moving events in life were expressed and captured poetically.

The song begins with the declaration – **Psalms 122:1-2**

Our first principle:

**1. Know your destination: the presence of God**

This song begs the question: how do you feel about worshiping the Father?  
We join the psalmist when we say [SHOUT]

But another life lesson is: Worship happens everywhere we go when Our Father's presence is our **DESTINATION!** Worship is deliberately seeing God wherever you are - you are not limited by a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Choose to meet God wherever you go next.

**2. Take it all in: Be specific**

The second section from **Psalms 122:3-5** deal with the observations of the travelers. The travelers have entered the great city of Jerusalem and they find themselves inside the gates, and they are amazed. Jerusalem was not only to sense political power but to know and sense the very presence of God himself.

These Pilgrims remind us:

Look around, be observant, Look for God's fingerprint, His power and Glory.

They see: **God's desire for community.**

The travelers were excited to be standing within the gates of Jerusalem, to enter into that city meant that they were drawing near to God's holy place because at that time God chose to make his presence known on that spot on the globe.

For you and I, the sacrifice of Jesus has made God's presence available to us at any time and any day, any place!! When we come to faith, in Jesus, God's presence takes up residence within us. Therefore the gates of Heaven are open and we stand in the presence of God every moment of our Lives.

The travelers observe **God's design for worship**

The pilgrims see the way the city is built and designed and they remember the command to come together to give thanks to Yahweh. The Pilgrims knew God's design and that is, we gather together to worship our Father, to give thanks to him collectively for what we have experienced and come through together.

The travelers also observe **God's Authority to Rule.**

As they arrive in the city the Pilgrims know up that this is a place of DECISION.

For you, the greatest decision has already been made by God- to offer you salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection. He offers you a new eternal destination. When you decided to follow Jesus as savior and master that was your moment of personal decision.

The final thoughts of the travelers is a prayer for Jerusalem. **Psalms 122:6-9**

**3. Make it personal – Pray in your own words,**

On your travels - talk to our Father about what you experience.

Pray for Jerusalem - pray that God will bring an end to the constant struggle between the Jews and the Muslims surrounding his city.

Pray for your Home -claim it for our homes or any other destination that we travel to.

Pray for yourself - pray for peace within your own spirit.

Pray for your place of work - Father I pray for peace within my workplace.

Prayer, like poetry is flexible, adaptable, and highly personal. Wherever you travel to, respond in prayerful conversation with God in your own vocabulary.

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Explain why it is important to worship in the presence of other believers.**
- **“God is always with you” – How would you explain that truth to someone who is not a follower of Christ?**
- **What would you say to someone who doesn’t feel that God is always with them?**
- **Do you prefer to travel to the same places over and over or to new locations? Explain why.**
- **What are some specific things you do to recognize God’s presence wherever you go? Do you actively invite God to reveal Himself to you?**