



A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

Psalm 123 – Psalm 124

December 31, 2023

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- Looking Back on 2023– A Season of Mercy
- Through many trying and difficult times we have sensed and experienced God's mercy towards us.

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- — A song of ascents: psalms were sung by pilgrims journeying up to Jerusalem for the 3 major feasts.

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- **Psalm 123:1–4 (NIV)** — 1 I lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven. 2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he shows us his mercy. 3 Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have endured much contempt. 4 We have endured much ridicule from the proud, much contempt from the arrogant.

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- **V.1,2 We Focus On The Lord And Intently Wait On Him For His Mercy**
- Our call is to look to Him
- **Isaiah 40:26 (NIV)** — 26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- We Watch And Wait In Trust – Knowing That He Will Show Us Mercy
- Our Eyes Are Fixed On Him: The One Who Knows The Way And Shows The Way
- **v. 3,4 We Ask Him For Mercy From Contempt And Ridicule Of The Arrogant And Proud**

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- Mercy Is Giving Someone What They Need Instead Of What They Deserve.
- God Wants To Give Us Mercy.
- He Wants To Give Us What We Need -- Not What We Deserve.

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- The Only Condition That We Must Meet --
Is To Put Our Faith In Jesus Christ

Jesus said : *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- While We Have Trusted God For Things That Have Not Yet Shown Up -- We Keep Trusting
- We Keep Doing **The Right Things, For The Right Reasons, With The Right Heart** Towards The Lord
- When We Need It The Most, The Lord's Mercy Will Surface

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- As We Look Back On 2023 -- How Could We Face All Those Tough Times?
- It Is Only By The Lord's Mercy
- At Just The Right Time – He Always Came Through

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- Looking Ahead – A Season Of Rescue
- **Psalm 124 (NIV) — *A song of ascents Of David*. 1** If the Lord had not been on our side— let Israel say— **2** if the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, **3** they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us; **4** the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us, **5** the raging waters would have swept us away. **6** Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth. **7** We have escaped like a bird from the fowler’s snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped. **8** Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- ***V. 1-5 If The Lord Had Not Been With Us We Would Have Been Swallowed Alive And Swept Away By The Flood And Raging Waters.***
- *“If” Is A 2-letter Word With Great Significance*
- *If It Wasn't For The Lord, Where Would We Be?*
- **IF** the Lord had not helped us – those who rose against us would burn us in their anger and sweep us away
- ***If It Wasn't For His Help -- What Could We Hope For?***
- ***If He Is For Us -- Who Can Be Against Us?***

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- *v.6-8 Praise the Lord – He has kept us from being torn in two; we have escaped from the snare; the snare has been broken; we have been Rescued. Our help is from the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth*
- **We Have Escaped From The Enemy's Snares And Traps**
- **The Enemy Has Laid In Wait To Devour Us, But The Lord Has Made A Way Of Escape – And Rescue**
- *Our Help Is From The Lord*
- *The Maker Of Heaven And Earth*
- **If God Is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?**

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

- **2 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV) — 10** He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

What we are RESCUED from and ESCAPE to:

- RESCUED from OUR labor ESCAPING to HIS rest (Matt. 11:28)
- RESCUED from death –ESCAPING to life (1 John 3:14)
- RESCUED from bondage ESCAPING to liberty (Gal 5:13)
- RESCUED out of darkness ESCAPING into light (1 Pet. 2:9)
- RESCUED from bondage ESCAPING to peace (1 Cor. 7:15)
- RESCUED loneliness ESCAPING INTO the fellowship of His Son (1 Cor. 1:9)

A Season of Mercy

A Season of Rescue

Three Responses To God's Mercy & Rescue For Us Today

- 1. Receive It**
- 2. Live It**
- 3. Give It**