

GOING DEEPER
March 21 & 22, 2020

Title: God is Watching Over You

Teacher: Pastor Wayne

Text: Psalm 121

Psalms 120-134 are an ancient song book, called the Songs of Ascent used by the Jewish people who would travel ‘up’ to the City of David, Jerusalem, for annual festivals. As they would travel, they would begin to recite and sing these psalms,

These songs would be sung from memory and would remind the people of whose they were (a people of God) and where they were going (following God).

The songs would encourage their hearts, rekindle their faith, calm their fears and provide them with perspective. We are a faith community on the move right now, finding our way through the dangerous COVID-19 valley...

Discussion Questions:

As we look to Psalm 121, we know:

(1) GOD IS WATCHING OVER YOU

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven & Earth (verse 2)

When the Israelites looked to the hills, the foreign gods offered promises they could not fulfill: fertility, harvest, protection, victory, security? What promises have you been tempted to accept from those who could not fulfill them?

In moments like these, we could lose our perspective and receive the promises from others, but we would forget whose we are. God Himself is calling us to remember what He has done. In what moments, past or present, have you experienced God’s help?

(2) GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE

He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber (verse 3)

No slipping will ever separate us from God’s unwavering attention. The foreign gods who make quick-fix promises needed to be woken up by sacrifice and worship. God doesn’t sleep. David sets the example for us before he fights Goliath, declaring God to be “the living God” (1 Sam 17:26 & 36)

When have you been tempted to believe God is asleep? Why?

What is one way you have seen God actively moving in your life?

(3) GOD IS WITH YOU & PROTECTS YOU

The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; (verse 5)

The moments where the sun beats down and seems unbearable or the moon leaves you without light for protection.

What is beating down on you right now? Where do you feel vulnerable? (e.g. physical fatigue, anxiety, fear, doubt)

Knowing that the foreign gods and false promises can be loud and draw our attention, when God seems quiet, how do you sense His presence? When God is quiet, how do you hear Him?

(4) GOD GIVES YOU HOPE FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (verse 8)

All of our beginnings, endings, now and in the future, to your very last breath will be watched over by God.

How does it make you feel knowing that God is watching over you and has your future in sight?

Practice:

"The Christian life is going to God. In going to God Christians travel the same ground that everyone else walks on, breathe the same air, drink the same water, shop in the same stores, read the same newspapers, are citizens under the same governments, pay the same prices for groceries and gasoline, fear the same dangers, are subject to the same pressures, get the same distresses, are buried in the same ground.

The difference is that each step we walk, each breath we breathe, we know we are preserved by God, we know we are accompanied by God, we know we are ruled by God; and therefore no matter what doubts we endure or what accidents we experience, the LORD will preserve us from evil, he will keep our life."

Eugene Peterson

1. How does being together, connected to each other under Jesus, make you feel? What gives you assurance of whose you are? What encouragement do you have knowing where you are going as you follow God?

2. Who are you journeying with, accompanied together by God? What evidence do you see in their lives that God is watching over them?

Remembering last week's message to respond in worship and hearing the closing song this weekend, how do you respond when you know God is ever-present and is watching over you?

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- *For leaders in our governments, communities, organizations and churches as they seek wisdom and discernment with COVID-19*
- *For those who are ill and those who are providing medical care for them*
- *For the Church to be a light in the darkness of fear, misinformation and isolation*
- *For neighbours to be a hopeful & peaceful presence as we love God and love our neighbours*