

Intro: Memphis. Blues Music. Spirituals. Lament. Field Hollers. Call & Response. Lament. Healing Music. "Ease their weary mind." Go to "Beulah Land." Prison. Suffering. Hardships. Poverty. Hated. Killed. Loss. Grieving. Pain. Labor. Sing their sorrow and oppression. Feeling Down. Honest. One interviewee: "Blues is about everyday life. The down parts of your life. But if you sing about them, and put them in your past, it's something you can back to and look at and say "man! I made it through that. How the world? I thought I wasn't gonna live." Blues is Musical Journaling. And the Psalms can be like that too. They're Prayers. Lament. They're Honest.

Thesis: "One Day, we won't ask How Long, but think How Short!"

I. How Long O LORD (1-8)

- A. v.5: Are you still angry? Jealous? Burning?
- B. v.1-4: Situation: God's judgment on sin/rebellion. Foreign nations have violently overtaken God's people/place. This was the warning/is part of God's judgment.
- C. v.6-7: Turn it around on them. Don't stay angry with us! Judge them now. Not us. They don't even worship you, know you, call on you or honor you. We're your people! LORD
- D. v.8: Show us compassion! Forget our iniquities. I'm very low.

APPLICATION:

1. **When do you say How Long? Do you pray your How Longs?** (BACK)
2. **Honest Prayers.** Did you know you can cuss in your prayers. Not telling you to. But if you're thinking it, He already knows. He's not shocked by it. He knows you. Situation. Thoughts.

II. Help Us O GOD (9-12)

- A. v.9: You ARE our salvation. Atoner! He has! He did in Jesus! He's not mad at you. Or angry with you anymore. He has forgotten and forgiven your iniquities. Your suffering is not b/c of anger. Jesus took all of it. Good. Glory. Love.
- B. v.9-10: For you Name's sake. Your glory. Not just my personal relief. Whatever's best.
- C. v.11: Hear our groans. Let them come before you. Permit them. Access to your throne.

ILLUSTRATION: **Granted access by the King.**

- D. v.12: Pay back for what they've done. To you and your people. Justice.

APPLICATION:

1. **God will avenge saints.** Martyrs. *Justice. Revelation. *Rom. 12:14-21**
2. **God's not angry with you.** In Christ? Not mad at you.

III. But Still I Will Give Thanks (13)

- A. **B/c we belong to you.** Your people. Your sheep. Your pasture. I'm yours!
- B. I will give thanks forever! (Literally. For Eternity.).

ILLUSTRATION: Silver Chair. Jill. 10 minutes! How long ago that seems. And so worth it to get here! This feels all the better because of what we went through.

- C. **Generations.** Tell my children. Their children. Remind them of your goodness. Praise.

APPLICATION:

One Day, we won't ask "How Long?", but think "How Short!" Amazing Grace! **"When we've been there 10,000 years!"** There is hope.

Some day, the same things we say "how long" about now, we'll say "how short" about then.

HOW LONG?

- Are we gonna wait for our food? Am I going to be overweight?
- Is the light going to be red? Am I gonna be stuck in traffic. Be driving. On this trip?
- Is my wife gonna take getting ready? Or been in the store? Grocery shopping?
- Is he gonna sit in that chair? Be at work? Do yard work? Let the trash fill up? Leave that towel there? Is this game gonna be on?
- Until they text me back. Call me back. Email me back. Comment on my post. Share it. Like it.

OR...

- am I gonna struggle to pay my bills. Gonna be at this job? Gonna be without a job? Wait for them to respond to my application.
- Is my child going to be mad at me? Ignore me? Not talk to me? My friend ghost me?
- Are you going to make me suffer watching all the people I love die? How long do I have?
- Am I going to deal or live in constant state of fear, depression, obsession, anxiety?
- Will I Deal with this pain, ache, nausea, sickness?
- Am I going to struggle with this sin? This temptation? This habit? This addiction?
- How long am I going to live in this world of sin and suffering and brokenness?

"One Day, we won't ask How Long, but think How Short!"

Rom. 12:14-21

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.^[h] Never be wise in your own sight. **17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it^[i] to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." **20** To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Some day, the same things we say "how long" about now, we'll say "how short" about then.