

Sermon-Based Questions

August 25, 2019

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Look Up: The Book of Psalms

Worthiness: Psalm 146

Introduction:

1. What are some of the ways people in this country tend to worship: money, power, entertainers, intellect, beauty, a spouse, children, or something else_____?
2. Why do you think small children can worship God in a way brilliant scholars and scientists often can't?

Reading (Scripture Reference):

Read Psalm 146

Understanding:

1. Pastor Dave quoted author David Foster Wallace as saying, "There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship." Compare what he said with what Bob Dylan sang,
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes
Indeed you're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil, or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody
2. What does the Psalmist warn is the danger of trusting in people (verses 3-4)? Describe a time when someone or something you trusted proved unworthy of your trust.
3. Pastor Dave said, "you will be blessed—you will be a truly happy, flourishing person, if you find your ultimate help in life, and your ultimate hope for the future, not in human beings, but rather in the Lord." How have you found this to be true in your life?

4. One of the three big reasons we should choose the Lord as our ultimate help in life and our hope for the future is given in Psalm 146:6. How is he described?

5. Another reason to choose the Lord over another person is given in verses 7-10. Why is it important that God has both power and compassion?

6. Compare Ecclesiastes 3:11 and Psalm 146:10. Why is it significant that God reigns forever?

7. Read John 1:18 Pastor Dave said that there's only one way for the ideas in this psalm to get personal. "The only way this is going to catch fire in your heart is for you to understand God through Jesus Christ." Match the incident in the life of Jesus which illustrates how he has these qualities:

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|-------------------------|---------------|
| __ Luke 1:30-33 | a) Power |
| __ Luke 8:24, John 2:11 | b) Compassion |
| __ Matthew 9:36 | c) Forever |

8. We become like what we worship (2 Kings 17:15). So how do we get these godly qualities?
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| Read 2 Timothy 1:7 | a) Power |
| Read Colossians 3:12 | b) Compassion |
| Read John 10:28 | c) Forever |

Application Activity:

Create a Psalm

Using Psalm 146 as an example, write a psalm about your experience with worshipping _____ (name a wrong object for worship). Cry out to God about your struggle. Describe the situation. Include a profession of innocence or a confession of sin and repentance. Acknowledge trust in God's help you in your weakness. Close with a praise.

Psalm 146

1. A praise to God [Psalm 146:1-2]
2. A description of your situation and a profession of innocence and/or a confession of sin [verses 3-7]
3. A turn to God acknowledging trust, assurance that he'll help you in your weakness [verses 8-9]
4. A closing praise [verse 10]

Your Psalm

1)

2)

3)

4)

Prayer: (Turn your psalm into a prayer):

Lectio Divina:

1. Reading: Have someone from your group read the passage aloud.
2. Meditation: Spend an entire minute in complete silence, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
3. Sharing: At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
4. Repeat: After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
 1. What did you hear and what seems important?
 2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
 3. What does it make you think of from your life?

Psalm 148

1 Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. 2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. 4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, 6 and he established them for ever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass away.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, 8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, 9 you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, 10 wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, 11 kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, 12 young men and women, old men and children. 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. 14 And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.