

Journal for Interpreting, Proclaiming and Proclaiming the Psalms
Fall 2020

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Week 1:

THE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

Short Answers

1. Which portions of the Scripture do you like to read? Why? Explain your thinking briefly. I enjoy reading a lot of the Old Testament I have always liked to know things like, why did this happen, or why that, then I like to think about how it impacts everyone and not just God's people at the time. How it is meant for me today

2. Have you avoided reading the Psalms or some parts of them in the past?

Yes

What was your hesitancy with them (for example, were they difficult to understand, were they uncomfortable for some reason, do you not like poetry, etc.)? Explain briefly. Poetry is not my favorite thing, but it is more that I do not understand them all.

3. Which of the characteristic of our world (anxiety and scarcity, greed, self-sufficiency, denial, despair, amnesia, lack of norms) has caused you the most struggle in your faith walk? Self-sufficiency is what I struggle with the most. Explain. I have always been the one that has needed to be in control, take care of my younger siblings, then other people in my life, then my husband and my daughter. I must be strong and make things happen, not allowing myself to be vulnerable to anyone. Trying to be vulnerable with God, to allow Him to be in control and depending on him has been and continues to be the hardest thing in the world for me.

4. Which of the characteristics of the counter-world of the Psalms (trustful faithfulness, abundance, trustful dependence, abrasive truth telling, hope, lively remembering, or following God's will and purposes) do you need to develop more fully in your life? Explain what you think is lacking.

Trustful faithfulness and dependence what I need to develop in my life, the ability to allow God to lead in blind faith, let Him be the one in total control.

5. Identify which values of technology or social media have unknowingly found its way into your life. In what way is the biblical perspective a corrective for you? That it is ok to get your knowledge about any topic from the technology, to respond to people negatively when you would not in person, and to portray yourself in a way that may not be truthful, hide from the world while participating in it. The Biblical perspective has been teaching me to be kind always, to be truthful about who I am in this world, with those around me and with the lord, I need the Word to Live, not the world around me.

6. Do you find your life tilted more toward monologue or dialogue? What made you draw that conclusion? I think it is more Monologue. I have always felt alone, even after 23 years of marriage I feel I am not heard. It is often that way in prayer as well.

Prayer (either for yourself or someone else): Write out a prayer that invites God into a concern raised from our topics and build moments of listening as you practice being present before God.

Revelation 1:6 praises Christ because “He has made us a kingdom and priests (not a kingdom of priests) for God His Father.” As priests, we have a responsibility to discern God’s will for us.

Lord you are like the sky that is over me, you bring sun, rain, the moon, wind, everything that is needed to make things grow and flourish. You want me to grow and flourish.

You have made me a plant needed by many, and my fruit is not as plentiful as it has been in the past, I am trying to water myself, and bring the sun to myself. I am not depending on you Lord. You want me to depend on you like the plants depend on the sun and rain.

You want to feed me more than you feed the grass or the flowers, you want your word to be the food I need so that I will be fruitful so that I can feed others, so that I can be strong and provide shelter for those depending on me like the animals of the air depend on the trees you provide for them as shelter.

Open my eyes Lord to your word and make me hungry for it, craving it like a plant craves the rain, opening up my leaves for the sun to feed me with the glow and warmth that your word will provide.

I cannot do this on my own Lord, you have been so good to me, to show me, I can grow here, I can be stronger than I have ever been, because you have made me a strong, deep rooted tree providing what others need, but helping me to realize I still need to be fed and watered by You to bring forth the fruit You have designed for me to grow.

You have promised your children to provide all they need. Show me all I need Lord and help me to recognize the food, the sun and water that you bring to feed and fertilize me with that I may wait for it stretching ever upward toward You catching all You provide. Amen