

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE 102.2

Lesson 25 (Study Notes): “Let Every Thing That Hath Breath Praise the Lord”

Class Member Reading: Psalm 69:20; 22:7-8; 22:16; 22:18; 22:1; 16:10; 23; 51; 59:16; 78:38; 86:5, 13; 100:4-5; 103:2-4, 8-11, 17-18; 4:5; 5:11; 9:10; 18:2; 56:11; 62:8; 118:8-9; 5:7; 15:1-3; 24; 27:4; 65:4; 84:1-2, 4, 10-12; 122; 134; Mark 14:32-41; Matthew 27:35, 39-43, 46; Mark 15:25; Acts 2:31-32; Acts 13:34-35

Discuss what we learn about God’s character and our relationship with them through these Psalms

Psalm 69:20

Insults have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. **One thing the Psalms do very well is model sadness and honesty about how we are really feeling.** In modern culture and especially American culture, we don’t give enough attention and validation to sadness.

Psalm 22:7-8, 16, 18

⁷All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

⁸“Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

¹⁶For dogs are all around me;

a company of evildoers encircles me. (these two phrases are in parallel)

My hands and feet have shriveled;

This is a translational crux with massive theological implications, when then dips into the even more complicated issue of prophecies about Jesus in the Jewish scriptures. The surrounding verses describe someone dying of a terminal illness and their enemies treating them as if they

were already dead.

The Hebrew of Ps. 22:17 says “my hands and feet [implied verb] like a lion”

The JPS gets the sense right: “Dogs surround me; a pack of evil ones closes in on me, like lions [they maul] my hands and feet” with the note this follows Rashi’s interpretation.

The Greek translation is where things get interesting: “They orusso my hands and feet”. The basic sense of “orusso” is to dig, which is where we get the idea of “pierce”

¹⁸they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Psalm 22:1

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? Oh, the power of this verse! And not just because Jesus spoke these words on the cross. How many of us have felt forsaken at times? Great for discussion (It is difficult to say whether Jesus actually said this. It goes back to the Aramaic church, so is very early. Mark 15:37 says Jesus “cried out with a loud voice”, so it is possible someone put the words of Ps. 22:1 into his mouth.

It brings to mind the following quote from C. S. Lewis’ Screwtape Letters:

“Do not be deceived, Wormwood. Our cause is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring, but still intending, to do our Enemy’s will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.”

Psalm 16:10

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. (KJV: For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.) (Comment on the King James Version in this context)

Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right

<p>paths of righteousness for his name's sake.</p> <p>4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou <i>art</i> with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.</p> <p>5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.</p> <p>6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.</p>	<p>paths for his name's sake.</p> <p>⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.</p> <p>⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.</p> <p>⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.</p>
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Is any Psalm better known than this one? And its message is so vitally important—that we are not alone, that no matter what God will be there for us, comfort and help us. (Explain “walk through the valley of the shadow of death”) **גַּם כִּי־אֶלֶךְ בְּנֵיאַ צִלְמוֹת לֹא־אִירָא** (Psa 23:4 WTT)

Psalm 51

¹Have **mercy** on me, O God, according to your **steadfast love**; according to your **abundant mercy** blot out my transgressions.

²**Wash me** thoroughly from my iniquity, and **cleanse me** from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that **you are justified** in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. *Though this has gotten tangled up with the idea of Original Sin, the author is almost certainly instead acknowledging that humans are bound to sin their entire lives.*

⁶**You desire truth in the inward being**; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷ **Purge me** with hyssop, and I shall be clean; **wash me**, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart**, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and **sustain in me a willing spirit**.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. (This is striking wording in the context of a religion of sacrifices)

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, Note this presupposes composition after Jerusalem has been destroyed (in 587)

¹⁹ then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar. Beautiful wording that explores core gospel principles.

Psalm 59:16

But I will sing of your **might**; I will sing aloud of your **steadfast love** in the morning. For you have been a **fortress** for me and a **refuge** in the day of my distress.

Psalm 78:38

Yet he, being **compassionate**, **forgave** their iniquity, and did not destroy them; often he restrained his anger, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Psalm 86:5, 13

⁵For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

¹³For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

Psalm 100:4-5

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵For the LORD is good; his **steadfast love** endures forever, and his **faithfulness** to all generations.

Psalm 103:2-4, 8-11, 17-18

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

³who **forgives** all your iniquity, who **heals** all your diseases,

⁴who redeems your life from the Pit, who **crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

⁸The LORD is **merciful** and **gracious, slow to anger** and abounding in **steadfast love**. Note that “steadfast love” (*chesed*) is a theme of these Psalms

⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹⁷But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children’s children,

¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Psalm 4:5

Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

Psalm 5:11

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you.

Psalm 9:10

And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 18:2

The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 56:11

in God I **trust**; I am not afraid. What can a mere mortal do to me?

Psalm 62:8

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a **refuge** for us. Selah (Scholars don't know what "selah" means. Perhaps "lift up", either of voices or instruments)

Psalm 118:8-9

⁸It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to put confidence in mortals. I love the word "refuge", which means "a [safe] place to flee to"

⁹It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Psalm 5:7

But I, through the abundance of your **steadfast love**, will enter your house, I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.

Psalm 15:1-3

¹ LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?
who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh
righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his
heart.

³ *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor
doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a
reproach against his neighbour.

¹ O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who
may dwell on your holy hill?

² Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is
right, and speak the truth from their heart;

³ who do not slander with their tongue, and
do no evil to their friends, nor take up a
reproach against their neighbors;

Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

² for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. (Note the connection between creation and temple)

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴ Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

⁶ Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah

Psalm 27:4

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

Psalm 65:4

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

Psalm 84:1-2, 4, 10-12

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹²O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

²Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

⁴To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”

⁸For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”

⁹For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Psalm 134

¹Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

²Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the LORD.

³May the LORD, maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion.

Mark 14:32-41

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ([Manual links this to Ps. 69:20](#), “Insults have broken my heart, so that I am in despair” which seems a very tenuous connection)

Matthew 27:35, 39-43, 46

³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots ([Ps. 22:18](#)); ³⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God,

come down from the cross.”⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,⁴²“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.”⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”⁴⁶And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Ps. 22:1)

Mark 15:25

It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him.

Acts 2:31-32

³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. (See Ps. 16:10)

Acts 13:34-35

³⁴As to his raising him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, ‘I will give you the holy promises made to David.’³⁵Therefore he has also said in another psalm, ‘You will not let your Holy One experience corruption.’

Additional Reading: None

Other Reading: Look through the rest of Psalms