

LOOKING AT SOME PSALMS

March 8, 2020

PRAYERS: How do we pray for what is happening in the world currently?

THREE TYPES OF PSALMS—

Hymn — Song of Orientation

Lament— A Prayer acknowledging Disorientation

Thanksgiving— Prayer of Reorientation

SCRIPTURE — Psalm 13

How long will you forget me, LORD? Forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long will I be left to my own wits, agony filling my heart? Daily? How long will my enemy keep defeating me? Look at me! Answer me, LORD my God! Restore sight to my eyes! Otherwise, I'll sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, "I won!" My foes will rejoice over my downfall. But I have trusted in your faithful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. Yes, I will sing to the LORD because he has been good to me.

RESPONSIVE READING — Psalm 13

ONE: How long will you forget me, LORD? Forever?

ALL: How long will you hide your face from me?

ONE: How long will I be left to my own wits, agony filling my heart? Daily?

ALL: How long will my enemy keep defeating me? Look at me! Answer me, LORD my God!

ONE: Restore sight to my eyes! Otherwise, I'll sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, "I won!"

ALL: My foes will rejoice over my downfall.

ONE: But I have trusted in your faithful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation.

ALL: Yes, I will sing to the LORD because he has been good to me.

QUESTION: What does it mean for the author of the Psalm to use LORD (Yahweh)?

GETTING PERSONAL: Have you ever felt this way before?

WHAT DO YOU THINK: What do you think about the change in mood at the end of the Psalm?

COMMON CONCERN: People so often do not believe they can speak honestly to God? Why?

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 137:8-9

Daughter Babylon, you destroyer, a blessing on the one who pays you back the very deed you did to us! A blessing on the one who seizes your children and smashes them against the rock!

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 77:1-9

I cry out loud to God— out loud to God so that he can hear me! During the day when I'm in trouble I look for my Lord. At night my hands are still outstretched and don't grow numb; my whole being refuses to be comforted. I remember God and I moan. I complain, and my spirit grows tired. You've kept my eyelids from closing. I'm so upset I can't even speak. I think about days long past; I remember years that seem an eternity in the past. I meditate with my heart at night; I complain, and my spirit keeps searching: "Will my Lord reject me forever? Will he never be pleased again? Has his faithful love come to a complete end? Is his promise over for future generations? Has God forgotten how to be gracious? Has he angrily stopped up his compassion?"

WHAT LINE: What line could you have said at one time or another in your own life?

STORY: B.S.

DIFFERENT SITUATIONS:

- Parents after the death of a young child
- Someone after a long period of unemployment and financial struggle
- A family in a refugee camp
- An older person after the sudden death of a spouse

WHY: Why do we not have opportunities for honest and healthy lament in our culture? Or do we?
