

THE PSALMS



*150 Examples of How
to Talk to God*

Brian Purfield

Mount St Jesuit Centre

SESSION TWO

- **Introduction**
- **Wisdom Psalms:** *“Happy are those...”* (Ps 1:1-6)
- **Psalms of Praise:** *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord!”* (Ps 98:1-9)
- **Psalms of Repentance:** *“Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord”* (Ps 130:1-8)

INTRODUCTION

- **Psalms invite us into intimacy with God**
 - **What do we long for? Our heart's desire?**

- **How to enter into the Psalms**
 - **E.g. *Lectio Divina***

LECTIO DIVINA

- **Reading** - *What does the text say?*
- **Meditation** - *What does the text say to me?*
- **Prayer** - *What do I want to say to God on the basis of this text?*
- **Action** - *What must I do in light of this text?*

WISDOM PSALMS: Ps 1:1-6

- *“Happy are those...”* – **The Two Ways**
 - **The Path that leads to a Blessed Life**
 - **A Wisdom Poem**
 - **A Torah Psalm – obedience to the Law**

OUTLINE OF PSALM 1

- **The Way of the Righteous (1:1-3)**
- **The Way of the Wicked (1:4-5)**
- **Evaluation of the Two Ways (1:6)**

THE RIGHTEOUS vs THE WICKED

- **“Righteous” is not “self-righteous”!**
 - **Trust in God**
- **“The Wicked”**
 - **Closed in on themselves**

THE RIGHTEOUS (1:1-3)

- **Beatitude – attitude, virtue or possession of the blessed**
- **Negatives to avoid & gradual progression:**
 - **“Walk in” → “Linger in” → “Sit in”**
 - **Destructiveness of Scorn**

***“WHATEVER THEY DO SHALL
PROSPER” (1:3)***

- **Meditating on the Law (Way) of the Lord**
 - **Forming person for action**
 - **Images of abiding**
 - **The tree planted by a stream**
 - **The vine (Jn 15)**

THE WICKED (1:4-5)

- *“As for the wicked....”*
 - *Inconsequential afterthought – chaff*
 - *Without substance & value*
 - *Sinners – missing the mark*

CREDO IN UNUM DEUM.....

- *“Cor” (heart) “Dare”
(to give)*
- *“I give my heart to
one God....”*



Trust in the Lord with all your heart. . .
Proverbs 3:5

PSALMS OF PRAISE: Ps 98:1-9

- **The Call to Praise is addressed “to all the earth”, not just to Israel.**
- **Worship – from Old English “weorthscipe”**
 - **To acknowledge worth or value of something**
 - ***“Worthy is the Lord....” (Rev 5:12)***

PSALMS OF PRAISE IN GENERAL

- **Open with call to praise God**
- **Reasons for praising God**

PSALM 98

- **The Lord as a Warrior (98:1, 3)**
- **Definition of YHWH** (Ps 86:15; Ex 34:6; Num 14:18; Neh 9:17; Ps 103:8; Jonah 4:2)
- **HESED** – Steadfast love, loving kindness, loyalty, mercy – covenant/family love

PSALMS OF REPENTANCE: Ps 130

- **Possible background to Ps 130**
- **One of the 7 Penitential Psalms (Pss 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 & 143)**
- ***De Profundis.... Out of the depths.....***

OUTLINE OF Ps 130

- **Complaints & petitions to the Lord (1-3)**
- **Affirmation of trust in God (4-6)**
- **Invitation to Israel to share psalmist's joy & hope (7-8)**

PSALM 130

- *“Out of the depths....”*
- *“Lord, hear my voice....”*
 - Attentive listening – *“consider well....”*
 - *“Our iniquities”* – What we have *“done amiss”*
- Image of God: The *True God* & the *Real God*

PSALM 130

- *“With you there is forgiveness....”*
 - *“We revere you” – “fear of the Lord”*
- **From adoration to longing**
 - **Image of hope: watching for dawn**
- **Sudden shift due to God’s *HESED* (vv.7-8)**

NEXT WEEK

- Psalms of Thanksgiving: *“I Give You Thanks, O Lord”* (Ps 138:1-8)
- Psalms of Lament & Entreaty: *“My Soul is Cast Down within Me”* (Ps 42:1-11)
- Royal & Messianic Psalms: *“Sit at My Right Hand”* (Ps 110:1-7)