

Preparation for March 18, 2012

I Celebrate You, Lord

MONDAY

Celebrating God - Read Psalm 92:1-4 and answer the following questions:

1. *What reasons does the world give for why a rock star or sports team deserves our worship?*
2. *What reasons does this psalm say God deserves our worship? (see verse 4)*
3. *What are some synonyms for “good” in verse 1? (appropriate, right, applicable, apt, becoming, correct, decent, desirable) Do any of your translations have anything other than “good”?*
4. *According to verse 2, when is it good to praise God?*
5. *What about the way in which we are to praise God? What does verse 3 say?*
6. *Now for the big question: are these exclusive lists? Is it ONLY appropriate to praise God in the morning and at night? Can we ONLY worship with the ten-stringed harp and the music of the lyre?*
7. *Think about Worship at St. John. Is there a disconnect between what is and what should be?*
8. *If you were defining the phrase “going through the motions” to someone who was learning English as a second language, how would you do it?*

TUESDAY

Recognize the Bigger Picture – Read Psalm 92:5-9 and answer the following questions

1. *Other than the magnificence of God, what else did the Psalmist write about in this passage?*
2. *What keeps the foolish person from understanding the magnificence of God’s works and the profundity of His thoughts?*
3. *Are we sometimes distracted from eternal realities by the wickedness in the world?*
4. *What assurance does this Psalm give us that there is a bigger picture?*

The psalmist praised God for his magnificent works. God has done a lot in your own life that gives you reason to praise God. These could be blessings, answered prayers, lessons taught, and so on. It is easy to ask God to answer a prayer, only to forget to praise Him once He’s done it. Let this be a reminder to praise God for his magnificent works! Take some extended time today to praise God for His wonderful works in your life.

WEDNESDAY

Songs in the Bible – Read Revelation 4-5. There are five worship songs quoted just in these two chapters of Revelation. Identify each song and note what group is singing each worship song. I will help you in listing each of these five worship songs.

- Rev. 4:8– sung by \_\_\_\_\_
- Rev. 4:10-11– sung by \_\_\_\_\_
- Rev. 5:8-10– sung by \_\_\_\_\_
- Rev. 5:11-12– sung by \_\_\_\_\_
- Rev. 5:13– sung by \_\_\_\_\_

1. *What do you notice about the progression through Revelation 4 and 5? (At first, there are only four singing. But with each song, more singers are listed, until by the fifth song, every living creature in the Universe has joined the song!)*
2. *Is it fair to say that sometimes in our own worship services, we are tired of singing by the fifth song, and that fewer people are singing at the end than there were at the beginning? How are you challenged by this scene in Revelation?*
3. *Jesus said for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. So how can we improve our worship here on earth?*

**Summary:** There is a line from an old gospel song that says worship on this earth is just a rehearsal as we prepare for worship in heaven. As the psalm says that the Lord is to be exalted forever, we must always be aware that we want the worship to continue from one life into the next.

## THURSDAY

**Enjoying the Benefits – Read Psalm 92:10-15 and ask yourself the following questions**

1. *What is the “horn” symbolic of in verse 10? (strength)*
2. *In the Bible, who usually got anointed with oil? (Kings and priests).*
3. *What does this suggest to you about how God sees you? (We have a priestly and kingly role in the world. Revelation 5:10 calls the redeemed of the Lord a “kingdom and priests to our God”)*
4. *Look closely at verse 11. If you are able to “look down” at your enemies, what does that say about your position? (This means you are on higher ground. And from a strategic standpoint, that means you have an advantage!) What advantage do you have over your enemies?*
5. *What are some of the blessings that God says are reserved for worshipers?*
6. *What do these blessings mean for us in our context?*
7. *What blessings do you receive when you worship?*
8. *Who are some people you would identify in our church who are continuing to bear fruit in their old age? How do they challenge you?*
9. *What do they do that makes them still bear fruit?*
10. *How would you gently encourage a senior adult who feels they have “done their time,” based on this passage?*

There are three references to plants in Psalm 92:7-15. We get two of them in verse 12 and in verse 7, the wicked are compared to grass that sprouts quickly.

1. *Which do you feel like you are most in need of now: cedar-like longevity or palm-like resiliency?*
2. *What enables a person to continue to thrive in old age like the psalm states?*
3. *Where are the righteous planted, according to verse 13?*
4. *What is their foundation, according to verse 15?*

**Summary:** We serve a God that is more valuable than any pop star, college basketball team, or celebrity, and he deserves the highest of worship. We are often guilty of giving the glory God alone deserves to one of these lesser things. Let's commit this week to “ascribing to the Lord the glory due His name” (Psalm 29:2)!

## FRIDAY – SATURDAY

Additional Articles:

1. Musical Instruments of the Bible
2. The Harp and Lyre