

Psalms Devotionals - Day 8

King and Kingdom

Recite aloud:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’ (Matthew 6:9-13)

for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Cor. 8:6)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

Scripture Reading

- Read Psalm 8 slowly at least 2 or 3 times

Meditate on His Word

Answer the following questions carefully:

1. What the NIV translates as the “praise of children and infants,” literally is “from the mouth” and probably more indicates cries from the negative effects of oppression and war than a positive praise. The young cry out and God has established a stronghold or boundary. In other words, he has set a limit to the havoc that mankind can wreak. Why do you think that God allows us to choose evil?
2. How do you feel about God setting limits on that evil?
3. Human beings were for the purpose of representing God’s rule into the earth and caring for his creation, but we haven’t done a very good job. What do you think is the biggest reason that humans have stumbled in caring for the creation?
4. What do you think it means that God is mindful of humans?

5. Several New Testament passages make the point that the human that fulfilled the vocation described in this psalm is Jesus (Heb. 2:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:27; Eph. 1:22). What are the implications for humanity that we have not lived up to this role for humanity but only Jesus has?
6. Why do you think the psalmist begins and ends with the declaration that the Lord's name is majestic in all the earth?
7. What have you learned about God from this Psalm?

Prayer Today:

- Begin this prayer by reciting the King and Kingdom passages from above and praying through them.
- Pray through Psalm 8, applying its language and meaning to yourself and the lives of those around you.
- Immerse yourself in the language of this prayer.
- Pray that you may reflect God's name as majestic everywhere you go.
- Pray to understand how amazing it is that God is mindful of us in the midst of such a vast creation.
- Thank God for sending Jesus who fulfilled the role set aside for humans and gave us a way to be restored to that purpose.
- Pray that others throughout the world will come to know God's name as majestic.
- At least two other times today, recite the three King and Kingdom passages and let them lead you into a short time of prayer rooted in the language and ideas of those passages.

Psalms Devotionals - Day 9

King and Kingdom

Recite aloud:

“Our Father in heaven,
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for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Cor. 8:6)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

Scripture Reading

- Read Psalm 9 slowly at least 2 or 3 times

Meditate on His Word

Answer the following questions carefully:

1. How often do you give thanks to God with all your heart? What keeps you from doing that more often?
2. How often do you sing to God in your time with him alone? What keeps you from doing that more often??
3. David lifts his eyes from his current pressures by looking back at how God has acted faithfully in the past which renews his faith. Do you need to spend time doing that today?
4. Do you really believe that God’s kingdom and the methods he uses to establish that kingdom, such as those outlined in the Sermon on the Mount, are the best thing for the world?
5. Do you boldly tell others about God or do you keep it to yourself more often than not? What would God have to do in order for you to willingly share more about him with others?

6. Verse 15 talks about the pit the nations have dug for themselves and then fallen into. The wicked falling as a result of their own choices and actions is a common theme in the psalter. What can you learn from that?
7. Verse 20 appeals to God to strike the nations and let them know they are mortal. How might God be doing that right now?
8. Do you pray regularly that God would show himself to the nations and show them that everything we value so deeply is mortal and impermanent?
9. What have you learned about God from this Psalm?

Prayer Today:

- Begin this prayer by reciting the King and Kingdom passages from above and praying through them.
- Pray through Psalm 9, applying its language and meaning to yourself and the lives of those around you.
- Immerse yourself in the language of this prayer.
- Spend some time giving thanks to the Lord for all that he has done in the world and in your life.
- Praise God for being mightier than any nation or ruler.
- Pray that God will enlarge his reign and kingdom into the nations of the world.
- Pray that God will be a refuge for the oppressed. Be as specific as you can about the groups that are oppressed in the world right now.
- Pray that God will help you trust in him.
- Pray that more and more people will seek him and trust in him.
- Pray that during the present times, people will be reminded that we are mortal and desperately need God.
- At least two other times today, recite the three King and Kingdom passages and let them lead you into a short time of prayer rooted in the language and ideas of those passages.

Psalms Devotionals - Day 10

King and Kingdom

Recite aloud:

“Our Father in heaven,
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for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Cor. 8:6)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

Scripture Reading

- Read Psalm 10 slowly at least 2 or 3 times

Meditate on His Word

Answer the following questions carefully:

1. Can you identify with the psalmist's frustration here? Where is God? When is he going to act? How do you respond when you grow frustrated with God?
2. We can easily grow impatient and unloving towards those that act selfishly or do not care for the vulnerable. But the psalms encourage us to take that frustrations to God and not to take them out on others. What person or group of people is the most tempting for you to be angry with right now?
3. The wicked have no room in their thoughts for God. How much time do you spend thinking about God in one form or fashion or meditating on his wisdom and his word?
4. What types of people do you know today that sound like the person being described in Psalm 10; people who act solely in their own interest but who act like God will never notice and they are fine?

5. How often do you pray for the poor, oppressed and vulnerable?

6. The psalmist struggles with what seems like inaction on God's part. He seems to understand that God doesn't intervene in every little issue. Psalm 8 made clear that it is our job to manage the creation. But there are limits, and the author wants that occasion to be one of them where God does act. What situations are going on around you right now that you can cry out to God and ask him to act and get involved?

7. In verses 16-18, the psalmist praises God for what he believes he is going to do rather than focusing on what God has not done yet. What can you learn from that that would apply to your current situation and life?

8. What have you learned about God from this Psalm?

Prayer Today:

- Begin this prayer by reciting the King and Kingdom passages from above and praying through them.
- Pray through Psalm 10, applying its language and meaning to yourself and the lives of those around you.
- Take any complaints you have to God today. Learn to feel comfortable with sharing your frustrations, your anger, and even your impatience with God.
- Pray for the oppressed.
- Pray for the oppressors.
- Pray for people that have wronged you.
- Is there anything in your life or in the world where you really feel that you need to ask God to please intervene?
- Praise God for how he will act and what he will do to rescue and preserve his people.
- At least two other times today, recite the three King and Kingdom passages and let them lead you into a short time of prayer rooted in the language and ideas of those passages.

Psalms Devotionals - Day 11

King and Kingdom

Recite aloud:

“Our Father in heaven,
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Give us today our daily bread.
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for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Cor. 8:6)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

Scripture Reading

- Read Psalm 11 slowly at least 2 or 3 times

Meditate on His Word

Answer the following questions carefully:

1. How do you need to take refuge in God today?
2. David didn't like the idea of being told to be afraid and even hide. Is there anything that others in the world are telling you that you should be afraid of?
3. David thinks that this fear would destroy the foundations of his trust in God? How does unchecked fear eat away at our trust for God?
4. What picture does the psalmist give of God and how does this combat fear?
5. What does verse 7 mean for you personally today?
6. What have you learned about God from this Psalm?

Prayer Today:

- Begin this prayer by reciting the King and Kingdom passages from above and praying through them.
- Pray through Psalm 11, applying its language and meaning to yourself and the lives of those around you.
- Pray that God will assist you in finding refuge in him today.
- Ask God to help you to rebel against the things that you are told you should fear.
- Pray that people in the world will turn to God rather than giving into fear.
- Spend some time praying about God's greatness.
- Remind yourself in prayer that God is in control and will judge the world one day.
- Pray for Jesus to return quickly and bring God's justice but also for patience if he doesn't.
- At least two other times today, recite the three King and Kingdom passages and let them lead you into a short time of prayer rooted in the language and ideas of those passages.

Psalms Devotionals - Day 12

King and Kingdom

Recite aloud:

“Our Father in heaven,
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There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

Scripture Reading

- Read Psalm 12 slowly at least 2 or 3 times

Meditate on His Word

Answer the following questions carefully:

1. The psalmist finds himself in a situation in which it seems that no one follows the way of the Lord anymore and society around him is crumbling. Are there any specific ways in which you can identify with that feeling?
2. What do you do when you feel like you cannot trust the people around you to simply be honest and trustworthy?
3. What does the psalmist hope for as a response to this terrible situation?
4. Verses 1-4 are the psalmist's complaint and prayer. What is God's response in verse 5?
5. What is the response to God's word in the rest of the psalm?
6. Do you see any examples of what is vile being honored by humanity in today's world?
7. How often do you pray about the rebellion of the world and wait for God's response?

8. What have you learned about God from this Psalm?

Prayer Today:

- Begin this prayer by reciting the King and Kingdom passages from above and praying through them.
- Pray through Psalm 12, applying its language and meaning to yourself and the lives of those around you.
- Pray that God will assist you in finding refuge in him today.
- Share your frustrations, complaints, and accusations of a fallen world with God. Be specific.
- Pray for those that are no longer faithful disciples.
- Pray for those that have never been faithful to God.
- Pray for those that feel they must lie to get ahead or survive in this world.
- Confess your own sin to God.
- Reaffirm your faith in him that he will work to establish his kingdom.
- At least two other times today, recite the three King and Kingdom passages and let them lead you into a short time of prayer rooted in the language and ideas of those passages.

Psalms Devotionals - Day 13

King and Kingdom

Recite aloud:

“Our Father in heaven,
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for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Cor. 8:6)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

Scripture Reading

- Read Psalm 13 slowly at least 2 or 3 times

Meditate on His Word

Answer the following questions carefully:

1. What is David’s frustration in this psalm?
2. Are there any situations right now that cause you to grow frustrated with God’s patience or seeming lack of concern and action?
3. What elements of relationship must be present in order for someone to complain so boldly and directly to God?
4. Why do you think God included complaints like these in his word?
5. In verse 5, the psalm switches to faithful rejoicing based, not on what God has done in this situation, but in what God will do. It’s one thing to be confident that God will act, but another thing to act as if his deliverance has already taken place. What does it demand of us to get to that type of faith and expression?

6. In verse 4, the people or thing opposing the psalmist *rejoice* at his fall, but rather than letting that get him down, he chooses to *rejoice* over what God has done, even though he hasn't done it yet. What *rejoicing* from the world do you need to reject today in order to *rejoice* in God? What will it take for your faith to get to that point?

7. What have you learned about God from this Psalm?

Prayer Today:

- Begin this prayer by reciting the King and Kingdom passages from above and praying through them.
- Pray through Psalm 13, applying its language and meaning to yourself and the lives of those around you.
- If you have any frustrations with God's patience or lack of action, get it out. Be honest with him.
- Share your frustrations from today with God?
- Meditate on why he wants us to feel free to air our complaints with him and to him.
- Praise God and rejoice for what he will one day do.
- At least two other times today, recite the three King and Kingdom passages and let them lead you into a short time of prayer rooted in the language and ideas of those passages.

Psalms Devotionals - Day 14

King and Kingdom

Recite aloud:

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And lead us not into temptation,
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for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Cor. 8:6)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

Scripture Reading

- Read Psalm 14 slowly at least 2 or 3 times

Meditate on His Word

Answer the following questions carefully:

1. The concept of what we would call an atheist didn't really exist at the time David writes this. What the fool or scoundrel actually were declaring was that God was not active and present in the lives of people. Do you ever identify with that feeling, like God is not present or concerned? How would you take those feelings to God if you have them?
2. The rest of verse 1 is not a commentary on the fool, it is the fool's complaint against society. Everyone is corrupt, vile, and no good. If God was active, then wouldn't he do something about all this evil, complains the fool. But are there any ways that you identify with his complaint? Explain.
3. Interestingly, the Lord agrees with the fool's initial assessment about humanity. They have all turned away and become corrupt. There is no one urging God to get involved, which is the complaint of the fool but the very thing he is guilty of. How often do you urge God to act in the face of evil and rebellion and to stand up for the oppressed?
4. The psalmist looks ahead to a time when the evildoers will be fear filled, realizing that God does care and will act. He will not just be distantly concerned about the righteous, he will be in their midst. How does your life reflect your belief that God is present in spirit in the company of the righteous and will fully be one day?

5. In verse 7, he turns to hope. We can have confidence in God's restoration and salvation because he is present with us. How often do you allow what God will do one day, to change your attitude and level of faith in the present time?
6. What have you learned about God from this Psalm?

Prayer Today:

- Begin this prayer by reciting the King and Kingdom passages from above and praying through them.
- Pray through Psalm 14, applying its language and meaning to yourself and the lives of those around you.
- Pray for those that don't believe God is active or that we will have to answer to him one day.
- Pray that when God looks at humankind he will see more and more people seeking him and coming to understand him.
- Pray for those that oppressed or disadvantaged.
- Pray that Jesus will soon return and restore his people and his creation.
- At least two other times today, recite the three King and Kingdom passages and let them lead you into a short time of prayer rooted in the language and ideas of those passages.