

Hesed- God's Faithful Loving-Kindness inspires our posture towards Him. Sermon Study Guide 03/04/18- Pastor Ben Sollie; Psalm 92:1-4;10-15

Hesed is described as God's faithful-loving kindness towards those who place their trust and confidence in Him. This week as we study Psalm 92, we will see that God's faithful-loving kindness inspires our posture towards Him.

Here's a brief summary of what we've covered:

- God's faithful loving-kindness in salvation.
- God's faithful loving-kindness is a fortress in times of trouble. It brings peace and a calm assurance.
- God's faithful loving-kindness as the creator and sustainer of life.
- God's faithful loving-kindness is a refuge, a safe place in a sinful and fallen world for those who place their trust in Him.
- God's faithful loving-kindness is a persistent pursuer.

Read Psalm 92:1-4; 10-15

As we consider God's love and faithfulness towards His people, that should inspire in us an attitude of praise, thankfulness, and humility. As we read Psalm 92, we see pretty clearly that it calls us to have an attitude of praise and worship towards God.

Praise is defined as:

- To admire or approve.
- An expression of admiration: words that express approval or admiration for somebody's achievements or for someone's good qualities.*
- Giving worship and thanks to God.*

Discussion Question:

- When is it easy for you to offer praise towards God? When is offering God praise difficult for you?**

We want to look at 3 aspects of praise:

The Priority of Praise

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night. –Psalm 92:1-2

As the writer of this psalm takes time to consider God's goodness and faithfulness, he says it is good that we worship God. God is most worthy of our praise. Verse 2 states that praise towards God should be declared in the morning and evening. This means that praise should be a priority throughout the day.

Psalm 34:1 says, "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

If you look at the life of David, he exemplified what it means to have a posture of praise towards God. On good days and bad days, whether in the field tending sheep, hiding out in a cave, on the run from Saul, or when he finally ruled as King, David was always taking time to offer praise to God. **Praise was a priority for Him.**

John Goldingay writes,

We are to express God's commitment and truthfulness to His people not just in the morning and evening. A mere one time recounting of these events is not enough. **They deserve continuous and repeated proclamation.**

Discussion Questions:

- On a scale of 1-10, how much is praise a priority in your life?
- How can praise become more of a priority for you?

The next aspect of praise is our

Purpose (Reason) for Praise:

God is Worthy.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. –Psalm 145:3

Scripture over and over again speaks to the greatness of God and how He deserves our praise simply because He and He alone is God. Yes, we praise God for his mighty acts and His loving kindness towards us. However, first and foremost, we praise God simply for who He is, God.

The gift of salvation through Jesus.

We praise God for the grace, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation that He offers us through Christ's atoning work on the cross. We praise God that in Christ we are the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

We praise God for His faithful- loving kindness towards us.

Because of His love for us, God provides peace, protection, safety, and nourishment to us. He is a refuge and fortress as we place our trust and confidence in Him. He is a faithful, loving, and gracious God even in our unfaithfulness.

Psalm 92 also speaks to God's acts of kindness towards his people and why He is worthy of our praise:

- V. 10- God strengthens, refreshes, and renews our spirit.
- V. 11-He shows justice to the wicked and triumphs over our enemies.
- V. 12- 14-He makes the righteous flourish, not just survive, but flourish. The righteous are nourished by God. They are like palm trees and the cedar of Lebanon, which are pictures of strength and dignity.
- v. 15- God is our rock. In Him we are safe & protected. He is a God in whom there is no unrighteousness. He is upright and blameless. He is a God we can depend on 100% of the time.

It is also important to remember that Praise Enthrones God.

Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.- Psalm 22:3

Praise exalts God to His rightful place in our lives.

It reminds us of how great, powerful, majestic, and holy God is. It reminds us that God is God and we are not. Praise gets the focus off of our wants, our struggles, our difficulties, and it puts the focus on God's faithfulness, goodness, and sovereignty over our lives.

Discussion Questions:

- As you consider the reasons why we offer God our praise, which one most resonates with you?
- How/when has praising God helped you get the focus off of your circumstances?

That brings us to our final aspect of praise:

The Posture of our praise.

- The Greeks and Hebrews had many different words for praise. The meaning of praise can easily get lost in our English translation.
- Below you'll find 7 primary uses for the word praise:

Halal

To boast foolishly, to make a show of it. To let it be known what God has done for us.

Ps. 113:1- Praise ye the Lord, praise o ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

Ps. 150:1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty expanse.

- We see this example in David dancing before the Lord as the Ark of the Covenant returned to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6).

Tehillah

To praise vocally in song or shouts.

Ps. 9:14 – That I may tell of all Your praises, That in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in Your salvation.

Zamar

To praise with instruments, alone or with voices.

Ps. 33:2-Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings.

- Praise doesn't only have to happen corporately. It can happen while we are alone, in the quietness of our hearts.

Hallelujah

A shouting call for corporate praise.

Ps.- 111:1 Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Yodah

To lift or throw arms upward in praise and surrender.

Ps. 42:5-Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me?

Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him.

- Praise gets the focus off of our problems and circumstances and puts our focus on God, the one who can handle our problems and circumstances.

Todah

To sing praises together as one community, in harmony.

Psalm 42:4 – When I remember these things, O pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise.

Barak/Chavah –

To kneel down, to bless God as an act of adoration. A posture of humility and surrender.

Ps. 95:6- O come let us worship and bow down; let us **kneel** before the Lord our maker.

1Chronicles 29:20-Then David said to all the assembly, "Now **bless** the Lord your God." And all the assembly blessed the Lord, the God of their fathers, and bowed low and did homage to the Lord and to the king.

Discussion Questions:

- Which posture of praise are you most comfortable with? Which one is most difficult for you?
- How can you be more intentional at taking time to praise God this week?

- Take time to pray for one another and for Hope Church. Remember that more than an outward expression, worship is about the posture of one's heart. Pray that the posture of our hearts would be one of praise, gratitude, and thankfulness to God because of who He is and what He's done for us.