

242 for 2015

Songs of the 70's

—Psalms 70-79—

Lesson: 3
Text: Psalm 72
Handout/Prep: September 16
242/Discussion: September 21-25
Proclamation: September 27

Refresh

Since your last meeting, seek to refresh not simply your memory (of outlines and illustrations, etc.), but also your past week, your present weaknesses, your will, your wonderings.

- 1) Review key themes. What did you hear last Sunday? Was it gospel? Could you tell this story to someone else? Will you tell it?
- 2) Address — or add — any questions you still wish to hear covered or clarified from the reading, the discussion, or from the sermon.
- 3) Explain any new insights (about God, church body, neighbor, self, service, etc.) you encountered or experienced. How does this Word inform your understanding of the Lord who is telling the story? How does it inform your place in His story?
- 4) Consider anew how the Word of God read and proclaimed last week offers refreshment to you:

Read

Psalm 72; Ps. 2; Gen. 12:1-3; 17:6-8; 22:17-18; Is. 2:1-5; 11:1-5; Rev. 11:15; 22:23-26

Reflect

In this section, expect to find a mixture of questions and considerations relating to the text/reading. Reflect both within (thought, prayer, study, etc.) and without (writing, discussion, action, etc.).

- 1) Based on its tone and lyric, if you were to give Psalm 72 a song *title*, what would it be?
- 2) If Psalm 72 was put to music, what would you expect the score to sound like (ex. Upbeat? Reflective? Serious? Soft? Grand? Triumphant?) Elaborate.
- 3) Do the lyrics of Psalm 72 provide any indication regarding *whom* this song is about, and *what* the occasion might be for singing it? Explain.
- 4) List at least five significant qualities of the kingly reign that receive attention in Psalm 72. How would you feel about living in a place that manifested such qualities? Are you presently living in a place ruled like this? Explain.
- 5) According to vss. 1-4, what particular quality will the king need to rule rightly (see also vss. 12-14)? What might this activity look like as reflected in our own day — both as carried out by you, personally, and by the church body as we serve together? How will we know when and whether we are reflecting the king's righteous rule?
- 6) Throughout the song, a desire marking the duration of the dynasty is expressed (cf. vss. 5, 7, 15, 17). If you lived in a kingdom that actually lasted that long, how might that affect the way you approach life each day? Offer examples, and reasons, for your answer.
- 7) In terms of people and places, how would you describe the scene being sung about in verses 8-11? Is the picture being painted one that is futuristic? Present? Fulfilled? Other? How will your answer affect the movement of your feet, feelings, and faith this day? Any day?
- 8) In various verses in Psalm 72 (ex. vss. 3, 6, 7, 15, 16), special benefits of the kingly reign get noted. When showered upon the land, what might these features look like? *Smell* like? Have you ever encountered (and counted) such blessings? Why or why not?
- 9) As detailed in Psalm 72, whom *must* this song be pointing to? Using Scripture, reveal the king's true identity — and *why* this matters.
- 10) As a finale', how do the closing verses of 18-20 reach your ears and your heart? Specifically, how do they inspire your own song? Do they ring true? Why or why not?
- 11) Reflect on the following quote by Charles Spurgeon: "As long as there are men on earth Christ shall have a throne among them... We see on the shore of time the wrecks of the Caesars, the relics of the Moguls, and the last remnants of the Ottomans. Charlemagne, Maximilian, Napoleon, how they flit like shadows before us! They were and are not; but Jesus for ever is."
- 12) As a singer of Psalm 72, what is it calling you to *do*? What is it calling you to *know*? To *feel*? Is one of these aspects accented more prominently? Explain.
- 13) How is this song about you? Do the lyrics of Psalm 72 provide words for your circumstance today? Do they give expression to your wants? Your worship? Your world? Why/why not?
- 14) How is this song about Jesus? Did He experience Psalm 72? Did He sing Psalm 72? Explain.

Relate

How does this Word relate to your relationships with God, fellow saints in the church, your neighbor, yourself (i.e. He, We, Thee, Me)? Consider the value of considering each relationship *in this order*. Moreover, seek to understand how the “fruit of the Spirit” (i.e. “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;” cf. Galatians 5:22-23) informs your answers/applications in each relationship.

1) *He*

How does this Word reveal God?

- His character? [attributes, works, wonders, control, etc.]
- His covenant? [plan, story, promises, blessings and curses...]
- His commands? [will, ways, call to repent, believe, obey...]
- His Christ? [pointing to, need for, fulfillment by, glory of...]

2) *We*

How does this Word speak to God’s people as a whole?

- As a global body [Displaying unity? Love?]
- As a gathered body [Assembling for worship? Regularly? Eagerly?]
- As a growing body [Making disciples? Equipping saints?]
- As a gifted body [Exercising gifts? One-anothering?]
- As a GURC body [Local applications? Edifying? Specific? Shared?]

3) *Thee*

How does this Word inform the way I love my neighbor?

- With my words? [kindness, truth-telling, gospel/evangelism...]
- With my works? [doing justly, loving mercy, meeting needs...]
- With my welcome? [hospitality, listening ear, availability...]

4) *Me*

How might the Spirit use this Word to move me — from the inside-out?

- My consecration [set-apartness, unto holiness...]
- My commitment [love of God in heart/soul/mind; walking humbly...]
- My conviction [of particular sin, of need for restoration...]
- My conscience [internal calls to specific actions, needs, people]
- My cornucopia [personal applications of fruit-full-ness; cf. Gal. 5]
- My calling [use of gift(s) granted/equipped with, for service]
- My conflict [with people, with inner struggles, with my flesh...]
- My congregation [see applications above, “We”]
- My comfort [see applications below, “Rest”]
- My conversation [with spouse? children? unbelievers? believers?]
- My communication [in particular: assess ability/desire to tell the gospel, from *this text*. Why not try now in your own words?]

Resolve

As revealed from this text, and as guided by the Holy Spirit, note at least one insight or specific action that would prove fruitful (see again Galatians 5:22-23) in your walk as you make your way to Zion. For example, does this week's study or proclamation of good news call you to:

Remember?	_____
Repent?	_____
Resist?	_____
Reconsider?	_____
Relay?	_____
Relish?	_____
Rejoice?	_____
Other?	_____

Rest

In view of all the above, rejoice that the inner posture of a child of God is/ought to be one of rest — a deep-seated joy that exudes gratitude and ongoing trust in the One who proves Himself forever faithful — to His people, to His plan, to Himself! This reality serves to refocus and encourage weary, walking saints. Today, can you name one way, or one area of your life where you would like to rest in Christ more? How does this present Word speak to your need for rest? With His gospel refreshing you, seek the Lord's comfort as you pilgrim upward in His service.