

242 for 2015

Songs of the 70's

—Psalms 70-79—

Lesson: 6
Text: Psalm 75
Handout/Prep: October 21
242/Discussion: October 26-30
Proclamation: November 1

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 75; 132:13-18; I Sam. 2:1-10; Is. 51:17; Jer. 25:15-18, 28-29; Mark 14:32-36; Luke 1:46-55, 67-69; John 17:6, 26; 18:1-11; 19:28-30; Eph. 2:13; Rev. 14:10; 16:19; 18:6

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 75 a song *title*, what would it be?
- 2) As you open up this latest song of Asaph — and seek to get caught-up in its message — how might the closing verses of Psalm 74 (verses 22-23) serve as a helpful lead-in?
- 3) What is being celebrated in verse 1 of Psalm 75? Who is doing the celebrating? How is it being celebrated? Are you one of the celebrants? Why, or why not?
- 4) Who is speaking in verses 2-5? In *one word*, how would you summarize the subject matter expressed in these verses?
- 5) In Psalm 75, the psalmist makes repeated reference to a *horn* (cf. verses 4, 5, 10). What is the meaning of this word-picture, and how does it point both to bad news and to good news? (See also related “songs” recorded in I Samuel 2:1-10; Psalm 132:13-18; Luke 1:46-55; 67-69).
- 6) How does the picture of *pillars* in verse 3 accent, or support, the oracle at hand?
- 7) As revealed, are God’s judgments always right? Always righteous? Always right on time? Are they so, even when suffering surrounds your circumstance and your song? Explain.
- 8) In verses 6 and 7, what truth about God’s character is lifted up? How do you feel about this affirmation? Comforted? Worried? Full of wonder? Other? Explain.
- 9) In verse 8, the psalmist sings about a significant *cup*. According to this Psalm, answer: Where is this cup? What is in it? Who drinks from it? How do they drink from it? When do they drink from it? Why do they drink from it? (See also Isaiah 51:17; Jeremiah 25:15-18, 28-29; Revelation 14:10; 16:19; 18:6).
- 10) Regarding the image of this cup, James Boice comments: “We know it best for its use in ‘The Battle Hymn of the Republic,’ which says of God, ‘He is pouring out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.’ Spurgeon remarks on this verse, ‘The retribution is terrible, it is blood for blood, foaming vengeance for foaming malice. [If] the very color of divine wrath is terrible, what must the taste be?’” Reflect and assess.
- 11) As the song reaches its finale in verses 9 and 10, who is singing? What is being celebrated? Why is this being celebrated? What makes this a practical matter? Is it a personal matter? Is it personal and practical to you, too? Why, or why not?
- 12) Assess one author’s expository idea of Psalm 75 (italics his): “*Because God has a set time to destroy the wicked of the world and exalt the righteous, the righteous should praise him for his mighty works and warn the world of the coming judgment.*”
- 13) As a singer of Psalm 75, 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.
- 14) How is this song about you? Do the lyrics of Psalm 75 provide words for your circumstance today? Do they give expression to your wants? Your worship? Your world? Why/why not?
- 15) How is this song about Jesus? Did He experience Psalm 75? Did He sing Psalm 75? 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.