

Summer Psalms
KING OF GLORY
Thursday, August 21
Reading: Psalm 24

Psalm 24:7 *Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. 10 Who is He, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty— He is the King of glory.*

Lee Iacocca is a legend in the car making industry. He was named the 18th-greatest American CEO of all time by Portfolio magazine. Yet, despite all his success and fame, he would write: “Here I am in the twilight years of my life, still wondering what it’s all about...I can tell you this: fame and fortune is for the birds.”¹

People today are in search of fame and fortune. They want glory for themselves and will do almost anything to get it. They think this will bring them happiness. Sadly, this attitude has seeped into many churches as well. They seek God only for what they can get - popularity, health, wealth, and “a better you.” Psalm 24 reminds us that happiness does not come from the things we get from God’s hand, but from seeking the presence of His face. Everything belongs to the Lord for He made it, but real joy comes when we are living in His presence.

Don’t get me wrong! Living in God’s presence is not an easy road. It can be like ascending a mountain (24:3)! It takes strength, stamina, and patience - things that can only come from the Lord. It requires constant examination and repentance when we stray. It means we must discover what our idols are and reject them (24:4). An idol is anything that takes first place in your life - a place reserved for God alone. Living in God’s presence is bathed in prayer - intentionally seeking the face of God.

David closes with a challenge to recognize the King of glory! Glory is not found in any human or human achievement. It is found only in “the LORD Almighty - He is the King of glory.” I like the phrase “the LORD mighty in battle.” When Christ returns in all His glory, He will win the final victory against Satan and sin. But the decisive battle was fought on Calvary when Jesus won salvation for all who believe. He won this victory by dying for the sins of the world and rising again conquering death and hell.

Creation now waits for Christ’s return in glory (Romans 8:19-22). As His people, we too wait to meet Him in the air and forever by with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). And while we wait, we do not seek fame and fortune for ourselves. We live to bring glory to the only One to whom it is due - the King of glory, the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Iacocca
<http://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2001/december/13437.html>