

Summer Psalms  
**BLESSINGS OF UNITY**  
Monday, August 4  
Reading: Psalm 133-134

**Psalm 133:1** *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*

In Aesop's fable "The Four Oxen and the Lion", a lion used to prowl a field in which four oxen lived. Many a time he tried to attack them; but whenever he came near they turned their tails to one another, so that whichever way he approached them he was met by the horns of one of them. At last, however, they fell a-quarrelling among themselves and each went off to pasture alone in a separate corner of the field. Then the lion attacked them one by one and soon made an end of all four." The moral of the story: United we stand, divided we fall! <sup>1</sup>

The final psalms of ascents proclaim "how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity" (133:1). This is a rare thing! It is far easier to split off into our own little cliques, everyone doing their own thing, than to come together in united cause and purpose. This psalm gives us vivid pictures of what unity brings to God's people.

The oil that was used to anoint Aaron as high priest (133:2) was of a sweet-smelling mixture of myrrh, cinnamon, calamus, and cassia, in olive oil. It was used only for the purpose of sanctifying the priests and the holy things of God's House. When God's people live in unity, they are a "sweet smell" to the world. They let the world see that they are "set apart" for God's use.

At 9200 feet, Mount Hermon is the tallest mountain in Israel (133:3). The dew and melting snow from this mountain are a principle source of the Sea of Galilee and Jordan River, as well as sustaining the vegetation in the area. Thus it became a picture of refreshment and nourishment. God's people living in unity brings refreshment to all.

This kind of unity can only come from a people who are first united with God. The three words "poured, running, and falling" all translate the same Hebrew word which means to "come down." By repeating "coming down" three times, the psalmist is reminding us that the power to live together in unity comes down from God. When God's people are walking in step with Him, then they can be united with each other as well. It is not something we can build ourselves. It must come from the heart of God uniting our hearts. This is what Jesus prayed for (John 17) and how the early church "were one in heart and mind" (Acts 4:32).

Psalm 134 closes the curtain on the songs of ascents. As the pilgrims and priests leave the Temple at evening they depart with words of praise on their lips - praise to "He who is Maker of heaven and earth" (a theme of the songs of ascents -134:3, see also 121:2; 124:8). This kind of praise is only possible when people are unified in the Lord.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bartleby.com/17/1/52.html>