

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP #1—Psalm 46

Below are some guiding questions for you as you listen, a little “flight plan” to help you stay engaged and on track, and perhaps draw out some of the important conclusions we cover. Some questions are lighter, others more in depth. Regardless, we hope this helps!

Intro

Is Rob stoked to start this podcast?

Whose birthday is today?

What is the name of Rob’s church?

What is the goal of the podcast?

Outline

How has COVID-19 (corona virus) and its effects on “normal life” impacted you thus far? Do you relate to any of Rob’s possible results? Do you see them as possibilities?

Why is time (and what you do with it) important?

What do YOU do when all you know is uncertain or failing? What do YOU do when the only possible future you can fathom is one of suffering/pain? What do YOU do when the world is going crazy and you have no power to stop it? Be honest! How do your responses to these situation affect you for good or for ill? How do they make a real difference in your life?

We will Explore the Text by breaking down Psalm 46 into THREE main sections:

- 1) WORLD-ENDING NATURAL CHAOS (v. 1-3)
- 2) GOD’S PEACE CHALLENGED AND THE FOLLY OF HUMAN STRIVING (v. 4-7)
- 3) GOD’S DIVINE VICTORY AND KINGDOM ASSURED (8-11)

Every time you see the word “Selah” or “Interlude”, we are going to pause and draw out some Discipleship considerations from the section we have just covered.

Content—Exploring the Text

1) World-Ending Natural Chaos (v. 1-3)

How many times is the idea of v. 1 repeated in the Psalm? Where are they located? What 2 things do they tell us about this Psalm?

- 1)
- 2)

What are the primary images of v. 2-3? What are their meanings in the ancient world?

IMAGE 1)

Meaning A-

Meaning B-

IMAGE 2)

Meaning A-

Meaning B-

With these two images interacting, what do these 2 verses paint a picture of?

Do any of you relate to the Psalmist's vision in v. 2-3? How so? Is it Corona that shakes your world right now? Has something else in the past? Is something else currently? How does the Psalmist's example in v. 1 impact how you might approach these "world-ending" circumstances?

What might the term "hopeful realist" mean, and how might it help us more than "eternal optimism" or "pessimistic realism"?

2) God's Peace Challenged and the Folly of Human Striving (v. 4-7)

What sticks out to you about the picture of God's city in v. 4-5? How does this picture of peace contrast the chaos of v. 2-3? What is the role of water in God's city? How does Psalm 104 and Romans 8 enhance your understanding of this?

Even after water has been tamed in v. 4, how does chaos still threaten God's peace? What is the definition of "striving", and how do you perhaps find yourself striving on a normal day? How do you find yourself prone to striving on a day of chaos?

What is the significance of God's voice in relation to the threat of chaos, human or otherwise?

What is the significance of the phrase "Lord of Hosts", and why is v. 7 and its placement important (remember what we covered about v. 1)?

What are your opinions of the picture of God's city contrasted with the kingdoms of men? What do we know about God's kingdom come in Jesus? What is the meaning of "now and not yet"? Which kingdom are you loyal to? Be honest and assess not only the things you think/believe, but also the things you do with every moment and every breath you have.

God's Divine Victory and Kingdom Assured (v. 8-11)

How do v. 8-9 relate to v. 6?

Have you ever imagined God's work or presence as one of "terror"? Why or why not? Have you ever experienced the terror of God's power? What other biblical examples do we have of our Good and Loving God striking terror into people both good and bad? There is an abundance of scriptures on this!

God FINALLY speaks in v. 10. Why is this significant?

What are the two things God tells us?

1)

- What are some other translations of this? How do they expand your understanding?

- What are the things YOU are holding on to in these crazy days that you need to relax your grip on?

- How does Jesus' words and the story around John 6:20 relate to Psalm 46:10?

2)

- How does this affect your outlook on situations like v. 6?

- How does this affect your outlook on situations like v. 2-3?

What is the significance of the final victory cry of v. 11? (Remember v. 7 and v. 1)

CONCLUSION

Blessing

May God be your sovereign refuge, trustworthy and mighty in the midst of your fear and striving.

For your fears, consider 2 Timothy 1:6-7. What promises and power do you take away from this verse? How will these things manifest in your life *today*?

For your striving, consider Matthew 6:33. How is this command a promise of God's provision? How can this help you trust Him more in this time rather than "trying harder" or "doing your own thing"?

Challenge

The Psalmist declares God's strength and presence before, during, and after the forces of chaos challenge the peace of God (v. 1, 7, 11).

What is one way you can confidently declare the Lord of Hosts is with you today, a mighty strength and refuge, ready and able to deliver you into the peace of His kingdom?

WITH GOD'S TRUTH ON YOUR HEART, DO NOT BE AFRAID. HE GOES WITH YOU INTO TODAY AND BEFORE YOU INTO TOMORROW.