

Prayer #2

Praise - Psalm 150

Mark Crawford
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This is a series on **Prayer**...last week Eric talked about The Lord's Prayer, (today) Praise, Confession next week, and How to Persist in Prayer in 2 weeks.

Announcement: Upcoming in December is Fallow Month (fallow means to leave a field unplanted so the nutrients and soil can recover and new growth can happen in the next season). Therefore, in December we will cancel regular meetings. The invitation is to be with family and friends, be refreshed, go to Winterhaven, do fun Christmas Advent things together. We will have a candlelight service on Dec. 24. Please pray for the pastors as we plan the next year.

Psalm 150

1 Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

4 praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,

5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD.

What is an instrument you don't play but you feel you could? In the psalm above, we have a trumpet (horn), a harp, and lyre, and a tambourine (which is actually a very amazing instrument to play well!). Psalm 150 tells us to praise God in a very loud way; so what is PRAISE?

Luke 8:16 "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light."

We turn on lights to see: lights here at the Village are pointed to art so you can see it. They are also pointed at me so you can see me. **Praise** is to shine a light on something so that it can be seen, to highlight it and tell "this is worth looking at." Praising God is shining a light on something that is worth seeing.

I talked about this in Psalm 146 a year ago: *Praise the Lord* in Hebrew is **HALLELUJAH** **Hallalu** = praise you, **ya** = Yahweh (the LORD). In the Psalms, you see both a lower case “**lord**” (which means *someone you serve*) and an uppercase “**LORD**” which means **Yahweh** (*the God of the covenant who makes promises*). Praising God is shining a light on “the God of promises” to do things.

We are going to do this today by reading through “The Hallelujah Psalms,” Psalms 146 to 150 because they all begin and end with Hallelujah. Jesus quotes the Psalms a lot (**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me** from Psalm 22) Look for Jesus in all these Psalms: all promises find their YES in Jesus.

Psalm 146

1 Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.

2 I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

3 Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

6 He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free,

8 the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.

9 The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

10 The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.

What does God promise in this Psalm? You can journal about these: write down what you hear. Why is God worthy of praise?

- He is **trustworthy**: You can depend on God who exceeds the most trustworthy person you could know here on earth. Our hope is in Him who made heaven and earth.

- We also see the **heart** of God in this psalm: the oppressed, hungry, imprisoned, the foreigner, the father, the widow: he frustrates the wicked. We don't have to come to God with any kind of status; we don't have to have anything to give him.

In Matthew 5, Jesus says “Blessed are the poor, the mournful, the meek...” Gods’ heart is not for the rich and powerful; it’s for those who have no one to defend them. He is trustworthy until the end.

Psalm 147

1 Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

6 The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.

8 He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain

and makes grass grow on the hills.

9 He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

10 His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;

11 the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

12 Extol the LORD, Jerusalem; praise your God, Zion.

13 He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you.

14 He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

15 He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

16 He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.

17 He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast?

18 He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

19 He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel.

20 He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws.

Praise the LORD

In Psalm 147, we see God’s creativity: he made the stars and knows their names, he makes the grass grow. We can see a world of intricate beauty: the way our bodies work and the way the planets move. It’s incredible: you see beautiful things which highlight his creativity everywhere. It is a wonder.

He also has his people, Israel in the OT, whom he has called out and pursued and revealed himself to. In Jesus, he has revealed himself to all of us: we are his people, drawn in with strengthened gates. Isn’t it amazing that the One who created everything created us and revealed himself to us?

Luke 19:39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” **40** “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Psalm 148

1 Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created,

6 and he established them for ever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass away.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,

9 you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

10 wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

11 kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

12 young men and women, old men and children.

13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

14 And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the LORD.

Hallelujah: In Psalm 148, we see the beauty of his creativity and also his POWER in his creation and over his creation. He holds the lightning and storms and in the way he calls his people and his authority over his creation. Jesus heals the sick.

Psalm 149

1 Praise the LORD. [Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King

3 Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.

4 For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

5 Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.

6 May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands,

7 to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

8 to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron,

9 to carry out the sentence written against them—this is the glory of all his faithful people.

Praise the LORD.

Taking up a sword is difficult for us to understand: the context is within a God who is just. He defends the oppressed and beaten down and powerless. He now proclaims his justice which will come forth. Somehow, God's people are partners with him in this: Jesus rides on a horse with people following along. If God isn't just, how can he defend the oppressed? We are all called to something: as followers of Jesus, our vocation has changed even though we no longer literally take up swords. But **we do take up swords**:

Ephesians 6

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Jesus is king; he has defeated the powers of evil in this world and we stand alongside him fighting a spiritual battle using the weapons and protections of We do this in one way by PRAISING the Lord.

Psalm 150

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Praise the LORD.

Jesus is worthy of praise because of the things we just read above. Our praise is to be loud as we shine a light on God's promises with the sounds of instruments.

Rev 5

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. **12** In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

Worthy is Jesus in his victory, power, and authority and calling of us to work alongside him as his people. He is worth shining a light on him. Praise is a public praise: you can praise at home alone but praise is also very public. When we read Scripture, we are publicly praising him and shining a light on his word.

We should practice: Read the Psalms! I'm not saying to read them once: *steep* yourself in the psalms. *Wherever you are reading in Scripture, read a Psalm alongside it.* Read 5 of them: it takes about 7 minutes! Meditate on his beauty and how everything fits together. Meditate on the story of God: The gospel of God calling his people and bringing Jesus: revealing himself, his suffering, death, and what he is doing in your life. Remember and rehearse these stories: if you don't know his stories, you don't know how to praise him!

Praise God on your own: **read the Psalms out loud:** read them to your cat! Listen to music in your car. You can listen to Village music on Spotify. **Play and instrument:** play a kazoo or a tambourine if you don't have an instrument. **Praise God HERE:** come together with God's

people and praise him. Shine a light on God who is worth looking at. PRAISE THE LORD.
Hallelujah.

Let's pray together: Let's take this time to praise God together. We will have 2 microphones. We will have short one-sentence prayers of praise.