

Zaburi 123

Kwa hiyo nawasihhi ninyi, ndugu, kwa huruma za Mungu, kuwasilisha miili yenu kuwa dhabihu hai na takatifu, inayokubalika kwa Mungu, ambayo ni huduma yenu ya kiroho ya ibada. Warumi 12:1

Mtazamo wao umewekwa kwa makini kwa hatua moja karibu na mkono, na uangalizi wa mafunzo wa mtumishi ambaye yuko tayari kwa ishara ndogo zaidi. Kulinganisha haipaswi kushinikizwa: watumishi hawa wanatazama msamaha, si kwa amri; lakini watumishi wao, bado wanaaminifu na wanajisalimisha. Wamekataa kupunguza urahisi wa kumngojea Mungu kwa kumkataa, au kununua 'aibu ya wanajivunia' kwa kujiunga nao (D. Kidner, 1973).

Sala ni sauti ya mmoja katika "mtumishi wa darasa" ambaye anaangalia njia mbadala "Mwalimu." Njia gani ya kufikiri juu ya sala, kama sifa ya mahusiano ya kijamii na tabia mpya YHWH, Mungu wa huruma, kama kufafanua rejea! Hii inaonyesha kugeuka kwa aibu ya kijamii kutoka kwa wale ambao "wanastahili" kwa Mmoja "aliyekwa mbinguni," maana ambayo ina maana ya kuondoka kwa dharau na kukubaliana na huruma. Mungu wa huruma hivyo hutolewa kama mbadala na dawa dhidi ya uhusiano usio na mashaka na usawa wa kijamii. Wakati Zaburi haina kusema hivyo, tunafikiria "huruma" hapa si tu sifa ya kimungu na nia, lakini pia suala la mazoezi na wafuasi wa YHWH, ambaye hawezi kushirikiana na kudharau kwa maskini. Sala ni tendo kubwa la matumaini, imani kwamba kudharau uhusiano wa kijamii sio kawaida na hauhitaji kuvumilia. Maana ya tumaini hilo ni katika Moja aliyeshughulikiwa, Mungu wa tumaini lote, Nani atakayekuja, au hivi karibuni, ataleta ulimwengu kuwa ustawi, hata kwa wale ambao dunia inadharau (W. Brueggemann, 2009).

Wiki ijayo: Zaburi 133

Psalm 123

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* Romans 12:1

Their gaze is fixed intently on a single point near at hand, with the trained watchfulness of the servant who is ready for the smallest gesture. The comparison must not be pressed: these servants are watching for relief, not for orders; yet servants they are, still loyal and submissive. They have refused to ease the strain of waiting for God by renouncing Him, or to buy off 'the contempt of the proud' by joining them (D. Kidner, 1973).

The prayer is the voice of one in the "servant class" who looks to an alternative "Master." What a way to think of prayer, as a re-characterization of social relationships with the new character YHWH, God of mercy, as defining reference! This presents the socially humiliated turning from the ones who "are at ease" to the One "enthroned in heaven," a turn that means a departure from contempt and an embrace of mercy. The God of mercy thus is presented as alternative and antidote to unbearable relationships and social inequity. While the psalm does not say so, we imagine "mercy" here is not only divine attribute and intention, but also a matter of practice by adherents of YHWH, who will not engage in scorn and contempt toward the needy. The prayer is an immense act of hope, a conviction that demeaning social relationship are not the norm and need not endure. The ground of such hope is in the One addressed, the God of all hope, Who will, soon or late, turn the world to well-being, even for those whom the the world holds in contempt (W. Brueggemann, 2009).

Next week: Psalm 133

Julai 8, 2018

Maisha ya Mtumishi

MASOMO YA MAANDIKO YA WIKI HII:

Leo: *Zaburi 4 (Mungu anakuambia nini?)*

Jumatatu: *Warumi 1:1-17*

Jumanne: *Wakolosai 1: 9-23*

Jumatano: *Waefeso 1: 1-14*

Alhamisi: *2 Wakorintho 12:1-10*

Ijumaa: *1 Petro 1: 1-9*

Jumamosi: *1 Wakorintho 1:18-31*

Mungu Mwenye nguvu, ili nguvu ya kubadilisha ya Injili yako iwe kazi katika maisha yetu leo na daima. Hebu tupate kuhudumia kwa nguvu, upendo, na uwepo wa Bwana wetu na Mwokozi, Yesu Kristo. Ni katika Jina Lake tunaomba, Amen.

July 8, 2018

The Servant Life

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 4 (What is God saying to you?)*

Monday: *Romans 1:1-17*

Tuesday: *Colossians 1:9-23*

Wednesday: *Ephesians 1:1-14*

Thursday: *2 Corinthians 12:1-10*

Friday: *1 Peter 1:1-9*

Saturday: *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

Almighty God, may the transforming power of Your Gospel be at work in our lives today and always. May we go forth to serve in the strength, love, and presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is in His Name we pray, Amen.