

Psalm 134

The Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120-134) begin with the theme of repentance, and departure from deceit, unrest, and war. The faithful Hebrew pilgrims journeyed together to Jerusalem, seeking to worship and celebrate their God. They sang these songs as they traveled, leaving the trappings of ‘every day’ behind, as they sought the LORD together.

May we too find ways to turn away from the world and seek the LORD together, to bless and be blessed.

It was a turning away from the world and a turning toward God; the initial move in a life-goal set on God. The way of discipleship that began in an act of repentance concludes in a life of praise and blessing (E. Peterson, 1980).

Blessing is the power to grow and live fully in the world and is possible because of the divine presence. The concluding blessing speaks the hope that the presence and power of the creator will go with the worshiping community into all of life. This God focuses on the relationship with this pilgrim community and extends the loyal love and trustworthiness emphasized in the Psalter even to the point of risk. This God—intensely present in Zion—goes with the pilgrims into the fray of the rest of life (W. Brueggemann. W. Bellinger, 2014).

Be not content with praise, such as all His works render to Him; but, as His saints, see that you “bless” Him. He blesses you; therefore, be zealous to bless Him. May blessed and blessing be the two words which describe our lives. Let others flatter their fellows, thank their stars, or praise themselves; as for us, we will bless our God, from whom all blessings flow (Spurgeon, 1885).

Next week: Gideon Speaker

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July 22, 2018 Bless the Lord and Be Blessed

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 37* (What is God saying to you?)

Monday: *Psalm 25:1-21*

Tuesday: *Luke 12:35-40*

Wednesday: *Micah 7*

Thursday: *Colossians 3:12-17*

Friday: *Luke 8:11-15*

Saturday: *James 5:7-11*

We bless you Father, and entrust ourselves to You—for You alone sustain us when we sleep and when we rise. Keep us faithful to the purposes inspired by Your Spirit. May our actions be spirited with zeal, and our enthusiasm regulated with wisdom; wisdom joined with perfect integrity of heart. Keep us today from all things hurtful and lead us to all things useful, through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen. (John Wesley, 1780)

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