

He Would Be Rejected

"Light: Experiencing Christ in the Psalms"

Psalm 118

November 18, 2018

BIG IDEA

Jesus understands our pain and knows what it is like to be completely rejected. Even though He was to be the centerpiece of all things, many rejected Him and many still do today.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

Psalm 118 has a rich history as it was sung in many environments dating back to the Israelites' time in Egypt. It is a multifaceted song that celebrates who God is to His people, but also what He has done for them. His faithfulness is seen as well as the gratitude from His people both then and now.

Psalm 118

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." ³Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." ⁴Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

⁵Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free.

⁶The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? ⁷The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

⁸It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. ⁹It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

¹⁰All nations surrounded me; in the name of the LORD I cut them off! ¹¹They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the LORD I cut them off! ¹²They

surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them off! ¹³ I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me.

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. ¹⁵ Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, ¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. ¹⁸ The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. ²⁹ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Seeing God's Love Together (vs. 1-4)

There is a corporate celebration of God's love! We all need this in our lives. Too often we default to living a life of individualism where we customize everything to what we want and where our personal preferences take us. This repeated reminder for Israel and for us is that God's love endures forever. They sang it all the time. They recited these words to each other. In big gatherings, in small gatherings, and with their families, they gave themselves to the truth and celebration of God's love.

- a. Do you find it difficult to sing and express your gratitude to God with others? Why or why not?**



- b. How do you personally prepare for worshipping God during Sunday service gatherings? What hinders and helps you prepare?**

2. Relish His Love Yourself (vs. 5-18)

At the same time that there is a corporate nature to worship and showing our gratitude toward God for all He has done, there is also a deeply personal component to what is sung in verses 5-18.

Look here at a few examples:

⁵ Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free. ⁶ The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

Think politics just briefly...who do you trust in? Where is your hope?

¹³ I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me. ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

- a. What are 1-2 major things you are grateful for about God and who He is toward you?**

- b. What are 1-2 significant things He has given you that you are specifically thanking Him for?**



3. The Rejected Cornerstone (vs. 19-27)

The cornerstone was the most important stone in the building of structures, and in this case, the temple. This stone was the first one laid above the foundation and from this stone, everything else was fitted, measured and placed. The entire design of the building was based on the cornerstone. Everything conformed to it.

What is being mentioned here on the cornerstone is two-fold. First, David is in view here and he was originally rejected as useless to the kingdom of Israel, but God raised David to be king and he was able to deepen the worship of God and ascend through the gates to the altar in the temple. Verse 23 points to this being something God is doing.

The second and far more important cornerstone is Jesus Christ Himself. The future cornerstone by which everything is measured is in view here as well. The New Testament shows us that Christ is the cornerstone of the spiritual temple of our lives as followers of Jesus. He is to be at the center, at the head, and the main corner of our lives. He came as the anticipated Messiah to Israel and all. He was rejected as well, and in far worse and significant ways.

- a. What reason(s) would you give for why Jesus was rejected by Israel?**

- b. What about for you? What keeps you from keeping Christ at the centerpiece of your life?**

4. Committed Thanks Forever (vs. 28-29)

The end of the song concludes with a committed and pledged worship of God for His love that will last forever.

- a. Take some time with your group or on your own to pray and thank God for many things in your life.**



PRAY

Father, I worship you and thank you for all that you are for me. Thank you for Jesus who is to always be the centerpiece of my life. Please give me a committed heart of worship and praise so much so that I will not turn to other things for comfort or satisfaction. Thank you for your enduring love! Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [*The Practice of the Presence of God*](#) – a book from Brother Lawrence
- [*Reimagine Church*](#) – a book from Nic Harding

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Our Advent Series Continues November 25: "Light: Experiencing Christ in the Psalms"

Next Week's Theme: He Would Be Betrayed (Psalm 69 and 109)

