

Worship on the Journey

{the songs of ascent}

The Journey and Corporate Worship

Psalm 122

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| 1 | I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of
the LORD!" | 6 | Pray for the peace of
Jerusalem!
"May they be secure who
love you!" |
| 2 | Our feet have been standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem! | 7 | Peace be within your walls
and security within your
towers!" |
| 3 | Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together, | 8 | For my brothers and companions'
sake
I will say, "Peace be within you!" |
| 4 | to which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name
of the LORD. | 9 | For the sake of the house of the
LORD our God,
I will seek your good. |
| 5 | There thrones for judgment
were set,
the thrones of the house
of David. | | |
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Overview

Psalm 122 points us to the joy of corporate worship, the gathering of God's people. The psalmist has finally arrived at his destination to worship with all of God's people. He is excited and for good reason. As he worships in Jerusalem he is reminded of the benefits of unity, obedience, and righteousness as God's people do life God's way. His response is fitting. He reacts to it all by praying for the welfare of God's people so that these great things can continue.

Introduction

In the journey of life, we need God and one another. God did not call us to walk with him nor to worship him alone. We are called to worship together and there is great joy in doing so.

1. The Joy of Corporate Worship [Verses 1-2]

The psalmist is excited at the invitation to go and worship with the whole people of God. It is an opportunity that he cannot neglect.

2. The Experience of Corporate Worship [Verses 3-5]

Upon arrival in Jerusalem the psalmist is also blown away in the midst of his experience. His excitement and joy only continue after his arrival.

3. The Response from Corporate Worship [Verses 6-9]

As any of us would, the psalmist leaves his experience with a deep desire to see it continue for himself and for others. So, he prays for peace [shalom] and security. He wants good things for God's people as they continue to worship together.

1. What do you enjoy about corporate worship and the gathering of God's people? Describe a season or experience of coming together as a church family that was of particular enjoyment to you.
2. The psalmist pulls out three points that add to his experience: Unity of God's people, Joy in obedience, justice and righteousness as God's people do life God's way. Which of these three grabs your attention and why? How do you see these as being important for our church today?
3. What makes corporate worship a positive experience for you personally? What makes it a negative experience?
4. What changes could you personally pursue, and encourage others to pursue, that would help our church grow in how we gather together?
5. The psalmist chooses to pray in response to his experience. What are you praying and what could you pray for our church family in how we gather together? Spend time praying over those thoughts.
6. What is one specific way you could better participate in our corporate worship gathering?