

# Worship on the Journey

{the songs of ascent}

## The Journey and God's Mercy

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Psalm 123

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
  - 2 Behold, as the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maidservant  
to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
till he has mercy upon us.
  - 3 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
  - 4 Our soul has had more than enough  
of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
of the contempt of the proud.
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Overview

Psalm 123 offers us a great example who how we are to position ourselves in service to God as we see His mercy. The world may see service (submission) as an act of great oppression, but we can know that our God does and will show us mercy! In service to God, we are then to seek to extend the mercy of God to those in the world who desperately need it.

## Introduction

The world will tell us that submission equals oppression, especially when the world looks at submission to God. It means we have to listen to someone else and we can't do what we want to do! But this Psalm goes against this worldly idea and shows that in actuality, we are all serving masters, and our, unlike any other master one can serve, shows us great mercy.

### 1. We need a posture of service before God [verses 1-2]

The psalmist begins by noting that he postures himself in such a way as to lift up his eyes to God. He expresses the immense glory of God, and then shows that posturing ourselves in this way should coexist with service. Looking to God's hand, his direction and his power, as a servant or a maidservant does to their superiors.

2. We serve because we know He provides mercy in the midst of oppression [verses 3-4]

The psalmist further unpacks how service is connected to mercy. Showing us that we serve God our master because we know He will have mercy on us (salvation) and because he currently shows us mercy as He works things together for our good.

3. In service to God, we are called to extend His mercy in service to the world.

As we seek to serve our merciful God, this must lead us to extending His mercy to others who need it. We seek to show mercy, meeting earthly need and proclaiming the Gospel.

1. What are some practical ways you can better position yourself to God?
2. When you lift up your eyes to God, what are some of the awesome truths about Him you see?
3. What do you think are some of the ways that God calls us to serve Him?
4. When was a time that you felt oppression in some way? How did you respond? How should you respond?
5. How does the great truth of God's mercy encourage you to look to God and serve Him?
6. Seek out and identify some of the New Testament passages that call Christians to serve our community well. How do these passages challenge you? What are steps of growth you can take for these areas?
7. In your own words, how would you respond to a non-Christian who says that submission to God is most certainly oppression? How could you use this opportunity to have a gospel conversation with them?