

Four Prayers for the Journey – Week One

A Prayer for Corporate Worship

Psalm 122:1-9

Introduction: David, the spiritual leader of the nation, urges his people to cultivate a taste for corporate worship and work for unity among the body. This Psalm teaches that high participation corporate worship is a huge priority for the people of God.

1. ***BEFORE YOU ARRIVE – Cultivate a taste for corporate worship. Ps. 122:1-2***
 - A. *Historical context* – As spiritual leader, David is passionate about corporate worship.
 1. David is writing about the tabernacle just after it was moved to Jerusalem.
 2. David is writing (*as a regular guy*) to show how all in the nation should respond.
 - B. *Cultural context* – Imagine: the harvest is done, grain stored, and you receive an invitation. 122:1
 1. There were three times that pilgrims typically went to Jerusalem.
 2. The trips were typically great fun, in spite of the dangers.
 - C. *Application* – When we gather for corporate worship we should anticipate the following...
 1. I will experience the supernatural presence of God, because of the glory cloud.
 2. I will experience high-participation worship, because of the sacrifices.
 3. I'm going to discover things about myself, as illustrated by Jesus.
 4. I'm going to experience privilege. "*Our feet standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.*"
2. ***WHILE YOU WORSHIP – Set your mind on the grace of God. Psalm 122:3-5***
 - A. *Art* causes us to appreciate the grace of God. 122:3
 - B. *Meditation* causes us to set our minds on the greatness of God's salvation. 122:4
 - C. *Unity in diversity* makes us sense the immensity of God. 122:4
 - D. *Open access* allows us feel close to God. 122:4 (Hebrews 4:16)
 - E. Thoughts of *practical application* give us hope in corporate worship. 122:5
3. ***AFTER YOU WORSHIP – Embrace your responsibility to work and pray for the good of God's people. Psalm 122:6-9***
 - A. The command – God asks us to pray for Shalom among his people. 122:6-7
 1. The concept of Shalom emphasizes the concept of promoting honor.
 2. The double command emphasizes the importance of hard work.
 - B. 1st responsibility – I am asked to speak words of blessing among God's people. 122:8
 1. Verbal blessing leads to a culture of honor.
 2. Verbal blessing is good for friends and family.
 - C. 2nd responsibility – I am asked to actively seek the good of God's people. 122:9
 1. "*Sake of the house*" is a reference to God's glory...his honor. 122:9a
 2. "*I will seek your good*" means I engage in good deeds. 122:9b (Titus 3:14)