

Looking Up: Labor

Sermon Notes January 28th, 2024

“The Psalms of Ascent consist of 15 psalms, from 120 through 134. While there are different ideas about what the “ascent” referenced in this group is all about, the most likely possibility is that these psalms were sung and prayed by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem. They were traveling to the temple in celebration of the three main festivals of the Hebrew people: Passover, Pentecost, and Booths (Exodus 23:14-17). No matter where they were, they would ascend toward Jerusalem because it was on the heights, but also because it was symbolically the spiritual high point where God dwelt with human beings.”
-Matt Erickson

The _____ of work.

Let’s not complain too much about how lazy or unmotivated this next generation is. Maybe they’ve just _____ for so long and said it’s not worth it.

At the heart of Jewish national life was the _____. Each year, Israelites would make the trip up to Jerusalem to celebrate 3 great feasts.

The 3 great pilgrimages.

- The Feast of _____: Commemorating the bread made the night of the great escape from Egypt. (Exodus 12:39)
- The Feast of _____: Commemorating the law given at Sini. (Exodus 19:1)
- The Feast of _____: Commemorating the booths in which the Israelites lived during their wilderness wanderings. (Lev 23:42)

This Psalm forces us to look in the mirror and ask the question. Do we have our _____ right? If all I do is work to gain, am I missing out on something more?

Psalm 127

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of Solomon.

- 1 Unless the Lord builds a house,
the work of the builders is wasted.
Unless the Lord protects a city,
guarding it with sentries will do no good.
- 2 It is useless for you to work so hard
from early morning until late at night,
anxiously working for food to eat;
for God gives rest to his loved ones.
- 3 Children are a gift from the Lord;
they are a reward from him.
- 4 Children born to a young man
are like arrows in a warrior’s hands.
- 5 How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!
He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.

This one Psalm has _____ parts.

Part one (1-2) reminds us that the work _____ can only provide so much. Ultimately, God is the one who provides. And he desires to give rest to those he loves.

You should have Jesus’ voice in the back of your head right now, reciting something like Matthew 6:25.

Part two (vs 3-5) forces us to look _____ of _____ and to the blessings around us.

This isn’t simply a statement about how great kids are. In the ancient world, children were a sign of blessing and abundance. To have children was not always guaranteed. So to have kids was viewed as a gift from God. At the heart of this statement is to say, look around you, and find joy in the things God has blessed you with.

Search YouTube: Dino Ambrosi the battle for your time

Take Home:

What are your _____ of rest? Where you stop producing for your own gain and rest in the blessing God has provided.

- What do you need to say no to, so you can say yes to more important things?

What are the _____ God has provided that you need to remind yourself of?

- Who can you say thank you to this week, for the blessing that they are to you?