

Looking Up: Community

Sermon Notes January 21st, 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

Psalm 122

- 1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- 2 Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.
- 4 That is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the LORD—to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.
- 5 There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure.
- 7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”
- 8 For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”
- 9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

Psalm 122:1-2

- 1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- 2 Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.

Psalm 122:3-5

- 3 Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.
- 4 That is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the LORD—to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.
- 5 There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

- God created a _____ with me (Pentecost/Weeks)
- God _____ me (Passover)
- God _____ for me (Booths)

When we are reminded of what God has done for us, it leads us to _____.

Psalm 122:6-9

- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure.
- 7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”
- 8 For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”
- 9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

God’s Spirit no longer _____ in a city but inside of _____.

Romans 8:11

11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

1 Peter 2:5

5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

As God’s people, we are called to come together in real community to _____ and _____ God.

Hebrews 10:23-25

23 Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

When you gather as God’s people, do you have an...

Take Home:

- What must you be reminded of when it comes to God’s faithfulness in your life?
- What commitment do you need to make to God?
- What commitment do you need to make to God’s people?