

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

THE LORD HATH BEEN MINDFUL OF US PSALMS 115

Text: Psalms 115:2, 12, 18

Psalm 115:2

² Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God?

Psalm 115:12

¹² The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron.

Psalm 115:18

¹⁸ But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the LORD.

Introduction:

We find in verse 2 a question, “Where is now their God?”

That is a question that has been asked throughout the ages.

Anytime there is a great tragedy people will ask...Where is God?

Where is God in times of famine?

Where is God in times of war?

Where is God in when earthquakes and Tsunamis kill hundreds of thousands of people?

People ask... Where was God when 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust?

Where was God when 20 children were killed at Sandy Hook elementary school?

Where was God during the Paris terror attacks? Where was God on 9/11?

I find it strange that often those who claim to not believe in God are the first to blame Him when tragedy strikes.

As we consider our selected text David asks the Lord a question. He says "why should the heathen say, where is their God?"

Israel had endured some difficult times.

Now their enemies were taunting them for their hope in God.

I hope to show you where our hope comes from. I want to take a quick journey through the Bible and answer the question "Where Is God"?

1. GOD IS IN THE STORM (MARK 4:37-39)

Mark 4:37-39

³⁷ And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. ³⁸ And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? ³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

In this event the Lord and His disciples were in a ship.

A great storm arose, the wind blew, the waves crashed and the ship began to fill with water.

The disciples who many were fisherman were afraid.

The come to the Lord and woke Him up.

He rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, "Peace be still."

The wind ceased and there was a great calm.

Those men learned a lesson that we need to learn today. The Lord is with us during the storm. When He sees fit, the Lord has the power to calm the storm.

Maybe you are in the midst of a great storm today.

Perhaps the doctor has given you some bad news.

Maybe you have a marriage that seems to be headed for divorce.

Things at work aren't going good. Even worse, some of you don't even have job at the moment.

Maybe you are dealing with a rebellious child.

There are bills that you can't pay.

Your life is filled with uncertainty.

Though the winds are blowing and the waves are crashing in, keep your eyes on the Lord.

Note the response of these men.

Matthew 8:27

²⁷ But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Moving on we will also see that:

2. GOD IS AT THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE (GENESIS 22:11-13)

Genesis 22:11-13

¹¹ And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I. ¹² And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me. ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

In Genesis 22 God tested Abraham's faith. The Lord told Abraham to go to a specific mountain. When he arrived he was to sacrifice his son Isaac to the Lord. Obviously this was not an easy task. But Abraham's faith was strong and he obeyed. When he arrived he set things in order and pulled out the knife to sacrifice his precious son. Then the Angel of the Lord called out to him and said, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me. ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went

and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.”

Abraham was glad that the Lord was in the place of sacrifice.

In order for this to take place Abraham had to be obedient and go to the top of that mountain in the first place.

Sometimes God leads us to places that we are unsure why, but remember it was there that God meet Abrahams need.

There are some of you who have stepped out on faith. You were obedient, you went where the Lord said to go. You did what the Lord told you to do. But things haven't turned out like you had planned.

Remember that He did not stop Abraham until the very last minute. But God knew every step of obedience that Abraham took and He blessed him for it! Don't forget that God sees your obedience, He sees your faithfulness and trust in Him. And when the time is right, He will provide for you as well.

As we continue our journey to see where the Lord is, let's look to Daniel Chapter 3 and consider that:

3. GOD IS IN THE MIDST OF THE FIRE (DANIEL 3:24-26)

Daniel 3:24-26

²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. ²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

King Nebuchadnezzar erected an idol of gold and commanded all of the people to bow down and worship it.

There were 3 Hebrew men who were devoted to the Lord and refused to bow.

They were given the opportunity to compromise but they would not.

So the King commanded that the furnace be heated 7 times hotter than ever before. He then commanded

that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be bound and cast into the fire.

After this, Nebuchadnezzar looked in the furnace and was amazed at what he saw. Daniel 3:24 (He asked) his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?

They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. 25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

More and more we are seeing Christians persecuted here in America. We still have it pretty good compared to some places in the world but things are rapidly getting worse.

When the time comes and you take a stand for the Lord and you are persecuted for your faith...when you face fiery trials and the people of this world ask you "Where Is Your God?" ... you can tell them "He's In The Midst Of the Fire!"

Let's move on and continue to answer the question "Where Is God?"

4. GOD IS IN THE DEEPEST OF VALLEYS (PSALMS 23:4)

Psalm 23:4

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

David speaks of the fact that the Lord is our Shepherd... and we are His sheep. A shepherd often has to lead his sheep through some frightening and dangerous places. David realized that even when traveling through the valley of the shadow of death he had no reason to fear. He trusted the Shepherd to lead him and protect him.

Perhaps the most difficult valley that we will walk through in this life is losing a loved one. Yes we are Christians and we "do not sorrow as those with no hope". But it is hard to say goodbye to those that we love. We still hurt, we still mourn and grieve over the loss.

Close:

Knowing that God is always with us we can as David said,

Psalm 115:12

¹² **The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us;**
he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron.

This should lead us to:

Psalm 115:18

¹⁸ But we **will bless the LORD** from this time forth and for evermore. **Praise the LORD.**