

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# SEEK THY SERVANT

## PSALMS 119:169-176

Text: Psalms 119:176

### **Psalm 119:176**

<sup>176</sup> *I have gone astray like a lost sheep; **seek thy servant**; for I do not forget thy commandments.*

Introduction:

In this final section of Psalms 119 it covers subjects that have been previously covered.

Some may believe there is no use of repeating request to the Lord but that can't be further from the truth.

Remember the story the Lord gave in Luke 11:

### **Luke 11:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> *And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup> For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? <sup>7</sup> And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. <sup>8</sup> I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will*

*rise and give him as many as he needeth.<sup>9</sup> And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.<sup>10</sup> For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

Repeated request never trouble the Lord.

I would like to share four thoughts from these verses this evening as we conclude this chapter.

Note:

Sermon Content:

## **1. THE APPEALS (VSS. 169, 170, 173, 175, 176)**

Much of this section is made up of appeals or prayer requests by the psalmist.

Notice:

A. They Were Plentiful (vs. 169, 170, 173, 175, 176)

### ***Psalm 119:169-170***

<sup>169</sup> *Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.* <sup>170</sup> *Let my*

*supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.*

***Psalm 119:173***

*<sup>173</sup> Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.*

***Psalm 119:175-176***

*<sup>175</sup> Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. <sup>176</sup> I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.*

In the previous section there were no request made, but the psalmist makes up for that lack of the previous section by making a number of appeals in these verses.

There are at least eight requests or appeals made in these verses.

There are two requests in verses 169, 170, and 175.

There is one appeal in verses 173, and 176.

The psalmist knew Who to bring his needs to.

We would do well to learn this as well.

Not only Were They Plentiful but also:

B. They Were Prudent (vss. 169-170, 173, 175, 176)

Often our request are not for spiritual matters but these appeals were for spiritual matters.

Three subjects are prominent in these requests.

Note:

- The Appeals about Supplication

***Psalm 119:169-170***

*<sup>169</sup> Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word. <sup>170</sup> Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.*

The psalmist pleads with God to hear and answer his prayer. This is a repeated appeal which showed up in some of the previous sections.

Note not only the Appeal About Supplications but also:

- The Appeals about Schooling

**Psalm 119:169**

<sup>169</sup> *Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.*

**Psalm 119:171**

<sup>171</sup> *My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.*

The psalmist again brings up the subject of being taught the Word of God by the Divine teacher. This quest to know the Word shows his esteem for the Word.

Note not only the Appeal about Supplications and Appeal about Schooling but also:

- The Appeals about Salvation

**Psalm 119:170**

<sup>170</sup> *Let my supplication come before thee: **deliver me** according to thy word.*

**Psalm 119:173**

<sup>173</sup> *Let thine hand **help me**; for I have chosen thy precepts.*

**Psalm 119:175-176**

<sup>175</sup> **Let my soul live**, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. <sup>176</sup> I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

The best help we can get is from the Lord, and praying for His help is a wise decision and prayer.

Remember His help is only a prayer away.

We have considered “The Appeals” note secondly:

## **2. THE ADORATION (VSS. 171, 172, 175)**

The psalmist gives much praise to God in these closing verses.

Note:

A. The Resolve to Praise (vss. 171-172, 175)

**Psalm 119:171-172**

<sup>171</sup> My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. <sup>172</sup> My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.

**Psalm 119:175**

*<sup>175</sup> Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.*

If a person is going to praise God they must first resolve to praise God.

If we do not resolve or are not resolute to do something we will not do it.

Illustration: Daniel

**Daniel 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> ***But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself*** with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

We must have strong resolves and purposes for holy action because opposition to holiness is extremely strong.

Quote:

I often say our resolves must be determined prior to temptation or most often we'll make the wrong choice.

We note not only the Resolve to Praise but also note:

## B. The Requirement for Praise (vss. 171, 175)

### **Psalm 119:171**

*<sup>171</sup> My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.*

### **Psalm 119:175**

*<sup>175</sup> Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.*

The psalmist gives two important requirements for the individual who wants to praise God.

- One Must Be Taught – “When thou has taught me”

We must be taught about God if we are to praise God. Being ignorant of God will not give much praise to God.

- One Must Have Trusted – “Let my soul live”

One must be given life from God or there will be no praise. The unregenerate person does not do well in praising God. Soul salvation enables one to praise God.

We note not only the Resolve and Requirement to Praise but also note:



## C. The Record of Praise (vss.172, 175)

### **Psalm 119:172**

*<sup>172</sup> My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.*

### **Psalm 119:175**

*<sup>175</sup> Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.*

The psalmist praised the Word of God and the God of the Word—two areas that need more praise especially in our day.

This leads us to consider thirdly:

## **3. THE AFFECTIONS (VSS. 173, 174, 176)**

### **Psalm 119:173-174**

*<sup>173</sup> Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. <sup>174</sup> I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.*

### **Psalm 119:176**

*<sup>176</sup> I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.*

Those who praise the Word of God and the God of the Word will have significant affections—much different than the world.

Note:

A. His Decision (vs. 173)

**Psalm 119:173**

<sup>173</sup> *Let thine hand help me; **for I have chosen thy precepts.***

Proper affections will help make one proper in their decisions.

The psalmist chose the way of the Word over the way of the world because of his affections which were proper.

If your affections are on the wrong things, you will make some tragic blundering decisions.

Notice not only His Decision but also:

B. His Delight (vs. 174, 176)

**Psalm 119:174**

<sup>174</sup> *I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.*

**Psalm 119:176**

<sup>176</sup> *I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.*

His delight was in God's Word.

Because his delight was in the Word; he didn't forget the commandments.

When you delight in something you're quick to forget it.

Those who forget the Word easily are really showing their lack of affection for God's Word.

That leads us to consider one final thought.

#### **4. THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (VS. 176)**

##### ***Psalm 119:176***

*<sup>176</sup> I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.*

He had gone astray, but he acknowledged his desire for the Lord to restore him.

Close:

In these verses the psalmist make his appeals to the Lord.

He stated his adoration or praise to the Lord.

He declares his affections for God's Word

He acknowledges he had gone astray and desired for the Lord to seek him and to restore him.