

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

**I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID ...
LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE
OF THE LORD
PSALMS 122**

Text: Psalms 122:1

Psalm 122:1

¹ I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

Introduction:

This Psalm is called “A Song of degrees”. Psalms 120 — 134 fall into this classification.

There were Psalms that were sung by Jewish pilgrims as they made their way to Jerusalem to observe the mandatory feasts given in the Law.

These Psalms were designed to glorify the Lord and help prepare the hearts of the saints of God for worship in the tabernacle and later on in the temple.

This particular Psalm talks about the place of worship, Jerusalem; the purpose of worship, the Lord; and the power of worship, it brings gladness to the hearts of the worshipers.

David writes, “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord”. The word “glad” means “to cause to rejoice”.

True worship will cause the one to rejoice.

True worship is biblical worship.

When our worship lines up with Scripture, great joy and rejoicing will be the result.

Notice:

Sermon Content:

1. THE PURPOSE FOR GOING THERE (VS. 4)

Psalm 122:4

⁴ Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.

David mentions two primary purposes for going to worship.

Note:

A. To Hear God's Precepts

David speaks of the "testimony of Israel."

This is a reference to God's command to Israel to gather at the tabernacle, and later at the temple, for the three great Jewish feasts.

The Jews made their pilgrimage to the place of worship because doing so honored the Word of the Lord.

One of the primary reasons we are to come together in the place of worship is to hear and heed God's Word.

We shouldn't come together to be entertained but rather enlightened to God's Word.

The Bible should be at the heart of everything we do!

Every service we have is a God given opportunity to open His book and hear His Word.

Spirit-filled, Bible-centered preaching will thrill the heart of the true Child of God!

Note not only do we see the purpose of Hearing God's Precepts but also we are:

B. To Herald God's Praise

Psalm 122:4

⁴ *Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to **give thanks unto the name of the LORD.***

David says they are also going there to “give thanks unto the name of the Lord.”

The ancient Jews made their way to the tabernacle and the temple at great personal cost and difficulty to offer their praises to the Lord.

They believed He was worthy to be praised for His grace in their lives, so they paid the price, and they praised His name!

Today it doesn't take much effort to get to the service today.

No one had to walk a hundred miles in trying conditions.

No one had to ride on the back of an animal.

It is sad that though it's pretty easy for most of us to get here, it easier for some to not be here.

Many have placed many things before the Lord and therefore will not praise the Lord like He deserves.

The Psalmist not only spoke regarding “The Purpose for Going to the House of God” but also notice:

2. THE PEOPLE WHO GATHER THERE (VS. 1, 4)

Psalm 122:1

¹ I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

Psalm 122:4

⁴ Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.

While David found gladness in the purpose of their going to the house of God, he also found gladness in who would meet him in that place.

He gives us another reason for being glad about going to church.

David was glad to go to church because he knew he would meet the people of the Lord there.

He tells us something about the people he would meet at church.

Note they were:

A. United in Fellowship

They came together on common ground for a common purpose.

The early church was known for a similar fellowship.

Acts 2:1

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:44

⁴⁴ And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

Acts 4:32

³² And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

When people allow petty differences, hard feelings, and an “I’m right and you are wrong” mentality we will never have the right kind or worship experience and we will never be glad to go to church.

May God give us some mature Christians who are willing to love, forgive, and worship.

Not only were they “United ion Fellowship” but also they were:

B. United in Family

Psalm 122:4

⁴ Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.

David referenced the families that went up.

The church is to function in a similar manner.

We are made family by the precious blood of Christ.

When we come together for a meeting, whether it is to worship, to fellowship, or just to pray we should take the opportunity to strengthen the family.

Again we need to ensure that our church family closely resembles the church of the book of Acts.

The Psalmist not only spoke regarding “The Purpose for Going to the House of God” and The People Who Gather There but let me quickly consider one final thought:

3. THE PERSON THEY GLORIFY THERE (VS. 1, 4)

Psalm 122:1

¹ I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

Psalm 122:4

⁴ Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.

Four times in this Psalm David mentions the “*Lord.*”

He was at the heart of all they did.

Every moment and event of life revolved around the Lord and His worship.

He was the centerpiece of everything.

Understand:

If you came here just because it's church time, you came for the wrong reason.

If you came to see someone, you came for the wrong reason.

If you came to see me, you came for the wrong reason.

If you just came to do your thing, or just because it's what you always do, you came for the wrong reason.

If you came because you love Him, you are here for the right reason. If you came because He saved you, blessed you and you want to thank Him for it, you are here for the right reasons.

Your worship experience will be real, lasting and meaningful. Those who come for the wrong reasons get nothing out of church. Those who come because they love Him receive great dividends in return.

Close:

When you consider everything David said about his reasons for being glad to go to the house of the Lord, can you agree with Him?

Do you share His reasons?

Are you filled with rejoicing when it comes time to go to the Lord's house, or do you struggle to be faithful in coming to church?

I think this would be a good opportunity for us to examine how we feel about going to church; how we feel about worshiping the Lord; and how we feel about the family of God.