

June 5 The voice of the Lord

Psalm 29

*“The voice of the Lord is over the waters...the voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars...the voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning. The voice of the Lord shakes the desert...the voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare..And in His temple all cry, “Glory!””*

The sevenfold repetition of “the voice of the Lord” highlights the sovereignty and authority of Yahweh over all His creation. Sky, sea, land, wilderness, heaven and earth, all have to submit to His order. All things are sustained by His powerful word. Even though the storms rage and the mountains quake, Yahweh is still the king. What is the proper response of God’s people to His voice? It is to worship Him and ascribe glory to Him in awe and wonder.

Can you discern God’s voice in your life? What is your response to His voice? Jesus says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, no one can snatch them out of my hand.”(John 10: 27-28)

June 6 God is good

Psalm 30

*“You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.” 30:11-12*

We experience the goodness of God when He changes our wailing into dancing, mourning into joy. Our deathly cry to Him will be transformed into a song of joy, for “He gets angry once in a while, but across a lifetime there is only love. The nights of crying your eyes out give way to days of laughter.” As Calvin observed, “But however much God may terrify and humble His faithful servants, with manifold signs of His displeasure, He always besprinkles them with the sweetness of His favor to moderate and assuage their grief.” No matter how bad you feel about yourself or your circumstance, just approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that you may receive mercy and find grace to help you in your time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

June 7 God sees and knows.

Psalm 31

*“I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. You have not handed me over to the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place” 31:7*

God’s act of deliverance begins when He sees and knows. When God called Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt, He told him, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them ...” (Exodus 3: 7-8) the knowledge of God is our hope and comfort, for He cares for the suffering of His people. We can be glad and rejoice in His love, and in anticipation of His act of deliverance. He is the Great shepherd who delivers His sheep from distress and guides them into a spacious place. The experience of deliverance results in a new freedom, in which one is surrounded by the peace and security that attend God’s salvation. Those who have faith in Him will never be put to shame.

June 8 the Journey of Repentance

Psalm 32

*“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you...and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

As one of the seven penitential psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143), this psalm has a special significance in Christian life. It describes the journey of true repentance: from confession of sin to the way of wisdom. When the deep sorrow for sin draws the psalmist to confess his sins before God, he experiences the joy of being forgiven. The experience of forgiveness leads into an encouragement of the godly to find refuge in the Lord and to be instructed by Him, because the assurance of forgiveness and protection is conditioned on a readiness to learn from the Lord. The promise of the Lord to instruct His children, give them wisdom, and watch over them, stands in the center of the psalm. This psalm reminds us that true repentance does not end in seeking God’s forgiveness. It continues with the determination to turn away from one’s wicked way and to follow the way of the Lord.

June 9 the power of God’s words

Psalm 33

*“Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere Him. For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stand firm.”*

The universe was formed at God’s command (Hebrew 11:3); whatever he spoke came into being. To fear and revere the Lord is our proper response as His creatures. Do you fear and revere the Lord in submission and devotion? What is your attitude towards His word? Have you experienced the power of God’s word as described by the author of Hebrews, “The word of God is living and active? Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”? (Hebrews 4:12) One day each one of us has to stand before the almighty God, and His word is the only judging standard. We have to live our lives in fear and reverence because “nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and lay bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13).

June 10 Taste, See and Fear.

Psalm 34

*“Open your mouth and taste open your eyes and see- how good God is. Blessed are you who run to Him. Fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.” 34: 8-10.*

The experience of God’s goodness brings about godliness. The verbs “taste” “see” and “fear” are complementary. When one tastes and sees the goodness of God by seeking Him and running to Him, he will respond to God by submission and devotion (fear). Blessed is the one who runs to God for protection, comfort and satisfaction, for he will taste and see that God is good. Blessed is the one who fears the Lord, for he will find all his heart desires being satisfied (Psalm 23:1). By contrasting the godly with the rich and

the strong (young lion is a metaphor for the rich or the strong) who may suffer from weakness and hungry, the psalmist exhorts his readers to seek and fear the Lord, who promises to provide all their needs beyond their expectations.

Have you tasted and seen the goodness of God? Can you echo with David when he says to the Lord, "You are my Lord, apart from you I have no good thing." (Psalm 16:2)? Do you constantly warn yourself about the fact that "the sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods."?

June 11 Evil for good

Psalm 35

*"Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about. They repay me evil for good, and leave my soul forlorn.."* 35:11-12

This psalm is the strong cry of distress when David was being hunted by Saul (1 Samuel 24:15). His mind is extremely agitated because of Saul's instability of character, and the awful scope of human ingratitude and hatred. False witnesses bring fantastic charges against him, and his grief is the greater because those who accuse him are ones whom he has befriended. One of the most hurtful experiences in life is when people repay you evil for good. However, being Christ's followers, we will experience the world's hatred without cause, as what our Lord Jesus has experienced. (John 15:25) But the death of Jesus as a consequence of human hatred became the act by which a new covenant was to be forged between God and mankind. It is a covenant that makes possible for all mankind to enter the Kingdom of God.

Thus, when people repay you evil for good, "do not repay evil with evil, or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." 1 Peter 3: 9.