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HALLEL PSALMS

Singing with Jesus at the Last Supper

STUDY GUIDE

Faithful One

Psalm 117

WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- We are getting together for worship on **Good Friday, April 3rd @ 7p** to sing and read through the story of the final hours of Jesus' life. There is childcare available, RSVP on the City.
- The Aruna 5k is coming up on Saturday, April 18th. All are welcome to run, walk, or serve. Check the website homepage for a link to the info on the City.
- Theology labs, are coming up in mid-April through early May. There are 3 tracts: (1) Prayer: Conversing with God by Dave Dupee (2) How to Read the Bible with Mike Previterra and (3) Household Worship with Brian Ferry.

Opener Question: What was the last movie you saw or book you read that you couldn't stop raving about?

Intro: During LENT (the run up to Good Friday and Easter), we are looking at the Hallel Psalms (Psalm 113-118). These psalms are used as a part of the Passover celebration, so these would be the songs and prayers Jesus and his friends would have used at the Last Supper.

STUDY/DISCUSSION

Read: Psalm 117

1. What does God command in this Psalm?
2. Who is the object of worship supposed to be?
3. We talked in previous weeks about the counterfeit gods or idols that often capture our hearts, affections, and attention. How have you been challenged and been growing in freedom from idols and turning to the Lord alone? (See: Luke 16.13 & discuss what Jesus is talking about in this dynamite packed verse).

4. The words “praise” and “extol” are the commands. To WHOM do these commands apply? That is, who has the obligation to do these things? Who is being called to “praise” and “extol” the Lord?
5. What are some of the implications of ALL nations and ALL people groups being called to worship the one true God?
6. Sometimes it’s helpful to look at other passages in Scripture to help us understand the primary Scripture we are studying. Particularly, it’s helpful if the Old Testament verse is QUOTED in the New Testament. Psalm 117 is quoted in Romans 15. Turn to Romans 15 and read verses 7-12. How is Paul using this passage from Psalm 117? What is his point? How does it help us understand Psalm 117 better?
7. What are the two reasons the psalmist gives in v.2 for praising and extolling the Lord?
8. Regarding God’s great love, C.S. Lewis wrote: “Though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him.” How do you react to this? Agree? Disagree?
9. How have you seen God’s persistent, everlasting faithfulness demonstrated in your story/in your life? Even in the midst of your unfaithfulness...
10. What does this Psalm teach us about MISSION, that is, our relationship with the world for the sake of the gospel? How can we go about praising and extolling the Lord in front of the “nations” (or even our neighbors, co-workers, etc.)?

PRAYER

Take some time and pray together: You can pray as a large group, break into smaller groups, split up into men and women, etc. If you share prayer requests, post them to the City so that your group can continue to be praying for each other.