

Evening Sermon Outline – May 16, 2021

“Bless the LORD” Psalm 103

This is an alphabetical Psalm: in it David is:

1. Personal - “my soul”
2. Passionate – “all that is within me”
3. Perfectionistic – “remember ALL His benefits”
4. Feeling Perfectly Pardoned -

³Who forgives all your iniquities,... Psalm 103:3 A

From “A” to “Z” may we bless HE, the LORD!

I. Stir yourself to active, energetic, whole-hearted worship and service of God -

A Psalm of David. With all of his various Psalms we might crown David, the king of Praise and worship. This psalm, probably written after his sin with Bathsheba is my personal favorite. In this Psalm, David starts, where we should all start, speaking to his own soul, stirring it, encouraging it, to Bless the LORD -

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

1. We all need to call on our souls to “Bless the LORD” because it is not something that comes naturally to us. We bless ourselves, even our families, maybe even others, but blessing the LORD, tends to come last.
2. We need to add **And all that is within me** because when we do praise the LORD, we are too often half-hearted about it.
3. David repeats this personal command to himself in verse :2, this time adding arguments for blessing the LORD, we are not to forget His many benefits:

² Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Psalm 103:2

A. Benefit #1 – Forgiveness -

³Who forgives all your iniquities,... Psalm 103:3 A

B. Benefit #2 – Healing -

Who heals all your diseases, Psalm 103:3 B

C. Benefit #3 – Redemption, from destruction -

⁴Who redeems your life from destruction, Psalm 103:4 A

D. Benefit #4 - A crowned life -

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Psalm 103:4

- Remember that while we are applying this to ourselves this was King David, who was literally crowned King of Israel.

- Additionally, we are also crowned –

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:5B-6

We are crowned with lovingkindness and tender mercies, though we crowned Him with thorns –

²⁹When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Matthew 27:29 (NKJV)

- We have Families, friendships, an abundance of things showing us God’s lovingkindness and tender mercies Psalm 103:4

E. Benefit #5 – Good Food -

⁵Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

* God has blessed us with remarkable TASTE BUDS, so we actually enjoy our food! * Food is also nutritious, our youth is renewed by it, meaning we gain energy and health from it!

F. Benefit #6 – Righteousness, justice -

⁶The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed. Psalm 103:6

II. *The Reasons for blessing the LORD, stirring yourself to this great task, are beyond personal: they are historical, heavenly, world-wide in their reach –*

1. He goes to the Jews first -

⁷ **He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. Psalm 103:7**

¹⁶ **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. Romans 1:16**

2. Yet, to us who are Gentiles as well –

⁶ **Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' ” Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV)**

A. His mercy abounds –

⁸ **The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. Psalm 103:8**

B. His anger with us is temporary –

⁹ **He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever. Psalm 103:9**

C. His punishment of our sins is always less than what we deserve

–

¹⁰ **He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. Psalm 103:10**

D. His mercy is high and great, He removes our sins far from us, He pities us as our father might, as He understands our dusty weak nature -

¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father pities *his* children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103:11-14**

III. *In order to stir yourself to praise, remember the great gulf between you and all humanity with you and the glory of our LORD –*

We tend to praise man, sometimes with excited praise for insignificant things, like hitting a ball, or throwing a ball through a hoop. The women of David's day praised him for ten-thousands while they credited Saul for thousands, kills. However, they could have praised God for them all and maybe it would have saved David some troubles?

1. Here we see the limits of man, he is temporary, short-lived to say the least, in ability to do good on earth -

¹⁵ **As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. ¹⁶ For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. Psalm 103:15-16**

This fits with the picture on the cover of our bulletin. We wilt and we die!

2. This is in contrast to the LORD, Whose mercy is everlasting –

¹⁷ **But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸ To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them. ¹⁹ The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. Psalm 103:17-19**

Heaven, where God's throne is, is: A. High above us! B. Vast in size!

C. Gloriously Beautiful! D. Out of any Enemy's Reach!

IV. *Knowing his own limitations David calls upon the Heavenly Hosts to join him in God's praise -*

²⁰ **Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. ²¹ Bless the LORD, all *you* His hosts, *You* ministers of His, who do His pleasure. ²² Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Psalm 103:20-22 (NKJV)**