


LOOKING UP

September-October 2023



*"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24*

Let's Be Honest

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

Are you honest with God? That seems like an odd question to ask Christians, after all as Christians we know that God is all-knowing. So it wouldn't seem to make any sense to try to be dishonest with Him. Yet it is possible for us to have a view of God which doesn't permit us to be completely honest with Him.

For instance, someone can believe that God's love for them is conditional, based on their

obedience. Or that God is primarily a means to gain the good things in this life. For one who believes either of those things, it would be unimaginable to complain to God. For the former that would constitute a form of disobedience, and for the latter a possible hindrance to God's generosity.

Yet consider how often we read in the Psalms and find the writer complaining to God. For instance in Psalm 13 David begins: "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?"

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Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

Youth Group

TBA

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?" This was likely written after David had been declared by God to be the future king, and he was being pursued by King Saul who was jealously trying to kill him. In David's words you can hear the raw emotion as he wonders aloud to God if He's really going to help. And if so, when?

God is not put off by our complaints. He knows our weaknesses, our frailty, even our lack of faith to believe that He will indeed fulfill all of His promises to us in the very best way possible. And He knows that the effects of living in a fallen creation are difficult for us at times. And He invites us to be honest with Him. This involves pouring out the pain and hurt and uncertainty that so often fills our hearts.

God knows your pain, but He also knows that He has provided that remedy for your pain. He has sent His Son Jesus on a mission to redeem us and to bring us into His eternal kingdom where pain shall be no more. So even as we pour out our complaints before Him, He puts into our hearts the faith to believe in Him through it all. He did so for David, and He'll do so for you. Just listen to how David concludes that Psalm: "But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me."

Whatever you are going through, cry out to God, because He is your ever present help in the time of your need.

Looking Ahead

September 8th
Bible Study

September 10th
Sunday School
Sunday School picnic

September 13th
Ladies Bible Study
Youth Group

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

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