

Small group Questions

4/26/2015

Psalm 121

1. These Psalms (120-134) are Songs of Ascents. They are meant to be said out loud, together in a group. Read Psalm 121 out loud together 3 times. What feelings does it create? What truth do you hear? How would you summarize this psalm in one sentence? How could it change the way you think or act?
2. Travis split the psalm up into four main parts or couplets. He also reminded us that parallelism is a common literary practice in Hebrew poetry. Let's look at these couplets together.
 - a. Verses 1 and 2:
 - i. What are the "high places?" What was happening on the high places? Look at the following verse for help: 2 Kings 16:1-4, Jeremiah 3:23, Psalm 125:1-2
 - ii. What are some of our "high places" in today's world? What do we look to for provision, guidance, security, or peace?
 - iii. Travis gave Tim Keller's definition of idolatry as, "trusting anything that is not God for that which only God can provide." What are some obvious ways we do that today? It is easy to see how others do this, but if we get real honest, how do we do this as well? What do you trust for your health, your security, your peace, your joy, your future, your safety, your?
 - b. Verses 3 and 4:
 - i. What can we learn about God's character in this verse? What words would you use to describe God in these verses?
 - ii. Travis mentioned the prophets of Baal, and how they yelled and shouted to "wake Baal up." How is this different than God?
 - iii. Do you ever feel as though God is sleeping? Have you ever felt like God is absent? If we feel like God is absent at times in our lives, but he is not sleeping, then how can that change the way we look at difficult circumstances?
 - c. Verses 5 and 6:
 - i. Read Romans 8:38-39. How does this relate?
 - ii. What is the difference between hard times and being harmed?
 - iii. How does the use of parallelism here make us see both the immediate and big picture nature of God's care?
 - d. Verses 7 and 8:
 - i. What is the outcome of believing this?
 - ii. How can our lives reflect this truth?
3. This psalm was spoken out loud together. In what ways are we called to encourage others with these truths? How can being in community, talking about these truths together encourage us? What are ways that a community can create this atmosphere of trust and encouragement?
4. Ultimately, the question from this Psalm is, "Do you trust God?" What is the honest answer? In what areas can you trust him more? Who are some people in your life, or even in this group, that exemplify trust in God?