



March 21, 2011 - Psalm 143:12

Hi everyone,

Well this is our last week in Psalm 143. What a journey we've had. I am already anticipating beginning Psalm 100 and I hope you are too. We recently sent an email to our entire mailing list inviting new people to join us for phase 2 through Psalm 100 and Psalm 101. I encourage you to share that with others so our Psalms Memorizing Family might grow even bigger. With that said, I want to cheer you on to continue on to phase 2, also. Even if you are a little behind with Psalm 143, don't quit! Press on and listen for God's voice through His Word. Let's see what He is saying in this last verse of Psalm 143.

Psalm 143:12 in the NASB reads,

**"And in Thy lovingkindness cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul;
for I am Thy servant."**

For me, this last verse of Psalm 143 raises a strong question, "Who am I?" David clearly states that he is a servant of the Lord. As I think back over his prayer it causes me to examine my own life. Can I say, "**for I am Thy servant.**"

Going back to Psalm 143:1, we see David beginning a prayer and we get to listen in. Review his prayer with me as we have heard David:

- Plead for God to hear him based on God's faithfulness and righteousness - v. 1-2
- Pour out his dilemma and trouble - v. 3-4
- Intentionally turn His eyes upward in seeking God - v. 5-6
- Desperately ramble off words that are not based in Truth (just like we do) - v. 7

Upon arriving at verse 8, we begin to see a rhythm that I want us to take note of. In each line, David makes a request or a statement about God based in Truth and then he makes a declaration of his own position based on that Truth. Follow this rhythm starting in verse 8:

Request/Statement v.8 "**Let me hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning**"

Personal Declaration v.8 "**I trust in Thee**"

Request/Statement v.8 "Teach me the way in which I should walk"

Personal Declaration v.8 "For to Thee I lift up my soul"

Request/Statement v.9 "Deliver me O Lord from my enemies"

Personal Declaration v.9 "I take refuge in Thee"

Request/Statement v.10 "Teach me to do Thy will"

Personal Declaration v.10 "For Thou art my God"

Beginning at the end of verse 12, David begins to cry out request after request to the Lord:

v. 10b "Let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground"

v. 11 "Revive me"

v. 11 "Bring my soul out of trouble"

v. 12 "Cut off my enemies"

v. 12 "Destroy all those who afflict my soul"

He then concludes His prayer with a final personal declaration... he says, "For I am Thy Servant." Looking at David's prayer in this way has made two impressions on me as I ask myself, "Who am I?"

The first impression is this...a servant relies on His master! David is certainly relying on the Lord for everything...emotional stability, direction, protection, teaching, covering for his soul, deliverance, and more.

The second impression is this...I need to remind myself of who I am. I am God's servant. No matter what is going on in my life, that is who I am. I belong to Him!

As we all conclude this Psalm, may we have a heart that cries out to the Lord, relying on our master, because we know who we are, we are His servants!

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If you are just joining us in this memorization project...welcome! This is the final devotion for phase one, Psalm 143. The weekly devotions for the entire chapter are available on our website by clicking on "A Year of Psalms" on the home page.

Phase two will begin next week with Psalm 100.

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