



Community Group Study: The Eyes Have It
Pilgrim Songs - Part 3 | Psalm 123 | week of June 18

GETTING STARTED

- Describe a time in your life when you faced significant opposition to your faith.

- Apart from the Holy Spirit, we are not naturally inclined to look to God for mercy. What are some other things that you or other Christians might be tempted to “look to” instead of God for deliverance?

Read Psalm 123.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

- Compare Psalm 123.1-2 to Psalm 121.1-2. What differences and similarities do you see?

- Christians are compared to God in the same way that servants in the Ancient Near East (ANE) were compared to their masters. Does anything about this analogy confuse you? Does it frustrate you? Do you really think of yourself that way?

- There are 2 phrases in Psalm 123.3-4 which are each repeated twice. What is the author trying to communicate by repeating each of them?
- Who are “the proud” and “those who are at ease” that you have come into conflict with in your life? What would “mercy” from God look like in those situations (*Others within the group should be willing to offer alternative ideas about what God’s mercy could look like in situations described*)?
- The Prophet Jeremiah laments the fall of Jerusalem to “the proud” and “at ease” Babylonians in the book of Lamentations. Read Lamentations 3.25-33 and discuss the reasons for hope that he pronounces for God’s people in the Old Testament in the midst of the opposition they faced. Which ones still apply to Christians today?
- How does what we now know of Jesus Christ and the truth of the Gospel enable us to appreciate Psalm 123 more fully than an Old Testament saint might have been able to?

NEXT STEPS

- Ask someone from the group to read aloud the following prayer:

Our Dear Lord,¹

We depend wholly upon you; wean us from all other dependences. You are our all, the foundation of goodness itself; how can we distrust you? How can we be anxious about what will happen to us? In light of your preciousness, the world and all its enjoyments are infinitely poor: we value the favour of men no more than pebbles.

May we love you in all our benefits, not forgetting that our greatest danger arises from

¹ Adapted from *The Valley of Vision*, “Love-Rest in God.”

our advantages. Produce in us self-despair that will make Jesus more precious to us, delightful in all his offices, pleasurable in all his ways, and may we love his commands as well as his promises.

Grant to us grace to distinguish true and false loves for you in our hearts, and to rest in you who are all love. Amen.

- **Memorize Psalm 123.1. Then, be on the lookout** for a fellow Christian who is facing opposition to his/her faith this week and encourage him/her with these words..