



AUGUST 3-8, 2020
SESSION 7: PSALM 119:121-136

HOMEWORK (one hour of your choice)

OPENING THOUGHTS

Have you ever been so excited about something that you couldn't resist telling someone about it right away?

What caused your excitement? How did it feel to share it with someone else?

In today's session, we're going to take a look at David's desire to see the lost world around him embrace the Lord. Having come to know God, David longs for others to know that good news. We'll spend our time today talking about how God's grace is not meant to stop with us, but He intends for it to overflow from our lives to influence those around us.

READ

Psalm 119:121-136

WATCH

Session 7 Video (8:45 minutes)

ANSWER

(DISCUSSION PREP)

In this session, we're going to meet David in a dark time as he describes the difficulties facing him, but we're also going to see him model for us a healthy way of responding during those times.

Verses 121-128.

How does David describe himself in verses 122, 124, and 125?

(A "servant" of God)

How does David describe the world around him (vs. 121-122, 126)?

(Oppressive, insolent, and disobedient to God's law)

What desire did Matt say characterizes David in this passage?

(A desire to be used by God in the lives of others)

Who in your life has God burdened your heart with a hope to see them come to Christ?



Scripture makes it clear that all Christians should have a concern for the salvation and welfare of those God has placed around us, but it is easy for this kind of conversation to prompt guilt and shame within us. If we seek to minister to the lost in our lives from a place of guilt and shame, we will end up exhausted and disappointed. In the following stanza, David helps us understand what motivates sustained obedience.

Verses 129–136.

David's two motivations for being used by God are his love for God and love for other people.

Which verses stand out to you as demonstrating a love for God on the part of David?

How does David demonstrate a loving concern for the lost?

As Matt said, our impulse today is to react with anger and emotion rather than giving people the benefit of the doubt. Far too often, Christians today are marked by anger rather than love for one another and a desire for the lost to come to know Christ.

How do you tend to react to the brokenness of the world?

***What are your relationships like with those who do not have a relationship with Jesus?
What are some of the obstacles that keep you from greater compassion for the lost?***

As we said before, this begins at the level of motivation. Guilt and shame are not sustainable motivations. The same can be said for hate and anger. We are called to be a people marked by sacrificial love and a desire for all to come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Despite the brokenness of the world, God has a plan. Men and women around the world remain trapped in sin, but as Matt said, "God's big plan is to send us right into the mess to herald the good news of the gospel." We are all witnesses of His saving work and He desires to use us as messengers of His good news to those around us.

Throughout this passage, David clearly hates sin, but also desires to see the world around him redeemed.

What are some of the areas in your life where God has placed you around those who do not know Him?

How has God given you opportunities to bear witness to the lost? In what ways do you need to grow in your compassion for those who do not have a relationship with Christ?

While we are called to engage the brokenness of the world with the light of Christ, we also need God's protection as we do so because we will face the temptation to return to our former ways.

How have you experienced the temptation to return to former ways around those who do not know Christ? What would doing so communicate about your faith?

Where do you need God's protection today?

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Ask the Lord to give you opportunities this week to share with those around you the good news of Jesus Christ. Pray that He would protect you from temptation in those times as well.

Proclaim: As God gives you opportunities, be intentional about speaking the gospel to those around you who do not yet know Jesus.

Confess: As a result of this session, if the Holy Spirit has convicted you of a lack of compassion for the lost around you, bring that to light and confess it to God. Ask Him to give you a heart that breaks for the lost and a desire for them to know Christ.

Forgive: If you struggle to love those who do not know Christ because of bitterness in you toward someone that has hurt you, take steps to forgiving that person and ask God to remove that bitterness and replace it with compassion for the lost.

Serve: Identify a need you can meet in your neighborhood, workplace, or community and consider ways in which you can meet it. At some point this week, use the gifts and resources God has given you to serve that need as an expression of your belief in Christ.

GROUP MEETING

Zoom (Saturday, August 8, 9-10pm)

