

Series: Psalms

Title: Our Eyes Wait on Thee

Text: Ps 123: 1-4

Date: May 9, 2024

Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 123: 1: «A Song of degrees.» Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. 2: Behold, as the eyes of servants *look* unto the hand of their masters, *and* as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes *wait* upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us. 3: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt. 4: Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease, *and* with the contempt of the proud.

"The LORD our God"--dwells in the heavens. Our Redeemer has all power over all. He rules all that comes to pass. Our Savior is always bringing glory to his name and good to his saints. He is our covenant keeping God. Therefore, God's saints lift up our eyes to him in all our troubles.

Title: Our Eyes Wait on Thee

Proposition: When scorned by men of this world, God's grace makes his saints fix our eyes on Christ above and wait on him until he have mercy on us.

Divisions: 1) The trouble 2) Example of scorning 3) The cure

THE TROUBLE

Psalm 123: 3: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt. 4: Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease, *and* with the contempt of the proud.

The trouble was due to scornful men.

God's saints endure scorn from men of this world: to scorn is to mock, to laugh at, to pour out contempt and disdain for another. The case in the psalm was dire, "*we are exceedingly filled with contempt, our soul is exceedingly filled with scorning.*" Men held them in contempt exceedingly; men scorned them exceedingly.

Scorn and contempt and mocking from men is one of the worst things to experience, especially if they accuse of things falsely. It causes great sorrow and bitterness within.

We see who scorns God's saints, "*those that are at ease.*" Unregenerate sinners are at ease. They do not have a broken and contrite heart from the Lord. So they do not mourn their sin. They have much ease in the world. Trials are not sanctified to them by the Lord.

The scorner is proud and haughty, "*the contempt of the proud.*"

Proverbs 21: 24: Proud *and* haughty scorner *is* his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

Unregenerate man--religious or irreligious--is proud. He is proud of face, place, race, even proud of his vain religion he calls grace. An unregenerate sinner is never so proud as he is of his self-made religion: proud of his self-taught wisdom, proud of his will by which he thinks he does all, proud of his so-called righteousness and holiness he worked out.

Therefore, when he hears the gospel giving God all the glory in Christ, declaring God chose his people, not we him it fills him with contempt. When natural men hear that God chose us by grace, not based on anything in us, they scorn us. The gospel declares that Christ redeemed his particular people and that the Spirit of God must, and shall, regenerate us and gift us with all things that pertain to godliness. But enmity rules his depraved heart so he scorns God's people and deals in proud wrath toward us.

A scorner seeks wisdom everywhere but in Christ our Wisdom.

Proverbs 14: 6: A scorner seeketh wisdom, and *findeth it* not. But knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

1 Corinthians 1: 18: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness.

Therefore, he findeth it not. But knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

1 Corinthians 1: 18:...but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

God makes Christ Wisdom and Power to us through the gospel/

1 John 5:20: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Knowing Christ was able to save wretches like us, we know Christ is able to save us from the scorner. So we hear his word and bow to him.

EXAMPLES OF SCORNING

Sennacherib, king of Assyria. Remember, the Lord told king Ahaz he would bring the king of Assyria against Judah. During Hezekiah's reign, the Lord did. Sennacherib scorned Hezekiah and the elect in Judah boasting in what he accomplished. Listen to what God said.

2 Kings 19: 22: Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted *thy* voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? *even* against the Holy *One* of Israel.

Scorning one of God's people, a man boasting in what he has accomplished is to reproach and blaspheme God himself.

2 Kings 19: 23: By thy messengers thou hast reproached the Lord, and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof, *and* the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, *and into* the forest of his Carmel....25 Hast thou not heard long ago *how* I have done it, *and* of ancient times that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste fenced cities *into* ruinous heaps. 26 Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were *as* the grass of the field, and *as* the green herb, *as* the grass on the housetops, and *as corn* blasted before it be grown up. 27 But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me. 28 Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

When our Lord walked this earth, he suffered from the scorner, personally. He told us to expect it.

John 15: 18: If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

At Jairus's house.

Luke 8: 52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. 53 And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

Can you imagine the contention that caused in that room? Jairus and his wife are mourning, looking to Christ to give life to their daughter and these others start laughing the Savior to scorn. Christ fulfilled this scripture:

Proverbs 22: 10: Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

Luke 8: 54 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. 55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.

Those born of God trust Christ. By Christ the Life dwelling in us, we believe Christ is the Life. We believe Christ alone can raise a sinner from the dead spiritually in regeneration and from the grave--we have experienced his power in regeneration. We believe Christ alone can restore his fallen servants and make us stand--we have experienced this power of our Lord. But unregenerate men laugh us to scorn and cast contempt upon us for looking to Christ alone. But God sanctifies the scorning to our hearts and only makes us look to Christ more.

In Psalm 22 we see an example of our Substitute bearing scorning from men on the cross.

Psalm 22: 6: But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. 7: All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, 8: He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

What did our Savior do when scorned? He did what he does in our Psalm. He lifted his eyes to God the Father in heaven.

Psalm 22: 9: But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts. 10: I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou *art* my God from my mother's belly. 11: Be not far from me; for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help.

THE CURE

Psalm 123: 1: Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

Our Lord Jesus has accomplished the redemption of his people and is risen into the heavens--with all power over all. The very one who redeemed his people is ruling everything that comes to pass in this world--a scorner will not fill us with his contempt but by Christ's permission--and it is for our good. By his grace, he makes us lift up our eyes to him.

He makes us do so continually.

Psalm 123: 2: Behold, as the eyes of servants *look* unto the hand of their masters, *and* as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes *wait* upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.

In those days, the master and mistress would often only give hand signals. So the servants had to keep their eye on the master. The maidens had to keep their eye on the mistress. Our sovereign Master teaches us to keep our eye of faith on him above--"*so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.*"

God is the LORD our God--*our eyes wait upon the LORD our God*. It means he is the covenant keeping God. We are children of promise, saved his by his covenant promises. He promises to not lose one who trust in him. Here is our Lord's promise. The scorner watches for iniquity. But Christ promises to defend those he has justified by his blood.

Isaiah 29: 20: For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off: 21: That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.

The scorners were already cut off when Christ satisfied justice for his people.

Isaiah 29: 22: Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.

The scorner looks for iniquity to try to expose and embarrass God's child. But Christ promises he has already redeemed his people, already justified us, and already cut off the scorner. So those that trust him shall not be ashamed, neither shall our face now wax pale.

Isaiah 29: 23: But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel. 24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

So believing Christ, we obey our Master, by not only keeping our eye of faith fixed on him above, we wait on him till he have mercy upon us, "*so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.*" The LORD our God works in his time, not our time, "*our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy on us.*" He commands his child in the heart that our strength is to sit still.

Isaiah 30 :7 For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength *is* to sit still.

Proverbs 13: 1: A wise son *heareth* his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

So it was in Israel. So it is in our day. While the Lord's redeemed wait by his grace, the scorner will not wait on the Lord.

Isaiah 30: 8: Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: 9 That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law [word] of the LORD: 10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: 11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. [that is scorning, that is filling God's preacher and people with contempt.] 12 Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: 13 Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant. 14 And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water *withal* out of the pit. 15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not. 16 But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift. 17 One thousand *shall flee* at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill.

For God's elect who flee, God will strip them and then show great mercy.

Isaiah 30: 18: And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD *is* a God of judgment: blessed *are* all they that wait for him.

So our eyes *wait* upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us. Our strength is to sit still and keep our eye of faith fixed on Christ till have mercy on us.

But he will have us ask him. He will be enquired of to do it for us. So our cry is.

Ps 123: 3: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us:...

When trouble comes to God's people, men of this world reproach and scorn us saying, "if you were God's he would not permit such things to happen to you." What do we do? We lift our eyes to the heaven, look to Christ alone and beg him to have mercy on us. Notice, what the saints are enduring at the hands of scorners. But notice how the saints are looking to God above and crying for mercy

Psalms 79: 1: O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps. 2: The dead bodies of thy servants have they given *to be* meat unto

the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth. 3: Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and *there was* none to bury *them*. 4: We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us...8: O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily [go before] us: for we are brought very low. 9: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: [that is our plea--for the glory of thy name] and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. [there is our plea: for thy name's sake; for the sake of our Lord Jesus] 10 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where *is* their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight *by* the revenging of the blood of thy servants *which is* shed. 11 Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die; 12 And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord. 13 So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

Brethren, never scorn others. Never hold them in contempt or mock anyone. To do so against God's people is to reproach and blaspheme God. Be not wise in our own conceits. We are what we are by God's grace alone. We are kept by the power of God alone. We have nothing in which to boast in ourselves

When scorned, remember, our Savior endured it for more and he put away all the sins of his people. Lift up your eyes to Christ. He is ruling in the heavens. He is our covenant keeping Savior in whom all the promises of God are yes and amen unto us. Keep your eye of faith fixed on him like a servant to his master and a maiden to her mistress--wait on him until he have mercy on us. As you do so beg mercy of him for his great name's sake--he shall have mercy on his people!

Amen!