

Quarter one: The Book of Psalms

Lesson 10—Lessons of the Past

Wednesday: The Parable of the Lord's Vine

March 6, 2024

- **Last Week:** “Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord”
 - Christ in the Psalms
- **This Week:** “Lessons of the Past”
 - Historical Psalms (salvation history Psalms)
 - Remembering what God has done gives us faith for today's trials

Memory Text: “Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” (Ps 78:3, 4, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** The Lord's Unstoppable Faithfulness (SQ)
 - Ps 78 – Israel's history: God's faithfulness contrasted with Israel's unfaithfulness
- 2. **Monday:** Remembering History & the Praise of God (James)
 - Ps 105 – Israel's history as exemplified thru the patriarchs: God's faithfulness, patriarch's faithfulness & call to us today
- 3. **Tuesday:** Remembering History & Repentance (John D)
 - Ps 106 – History of Israel's failure: God's faithfulness & call to repentance
- 4. **Wednesday:** The Parable of the Lord's Vine (Jill)
 - Ps 80 – God's people as a vineyard; contrast between God's wrath & judgment vs His grace & forgiveness; call to repentance
- 5. **Thursday:** The Lord's Supremacy in History (Ryan)
 - Ps 135 – History of Israel's covenant relationship with God; appeal to remain faithful in covenant relationship with Him

Wednesday: The Parable of the Lord's vine

Ps 80; Num 6:22 – 27; Jer 24:7; Isa 5:1 – 7; Jer 2:21

- Historical context:
 - Ps 78 – divine rejection of Ephraim
 - Northern 10 tribes of Israel
 - Possibly the disbursement in 722 BC
 - Assyrians destroyed the Israelites
 - Ps 79 – destruction of the temple & Jerusalem
 - Southern tribes of Judah
 - Taken into Babylonian captivity
 - 605 BC

- Ps 80 – plea for restoration
 - Occurs 3 times in the chapter
 - Vs 3 – “**Restore** us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!”
 - Restore = Heb, *shoob* = “to return”
 - Linked to the idea of repentance & restoration
 - Jer 24:7 – “Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall **return** to Me with their whole heart.”
 - Repentance & restoration
 - Vs 7 – “**Restore** us, O God of hosts, how long will You be angry against the prayer of Your people?”
 - Repentance & restoration
 - Vs 19 – “**Restore** us, O Lord God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!”
 - Repentance & restoration

Theme of chapter:

- First imagery = **God as a Shepherd**
 - Requested to restore His people
- 2nd imagery = **Israel was a vine**, which God transplanted from Egypt
 - Ps 80:8 – “You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it.”
 - Israel was transplanted from Egypt – the land of oppression
 - To the promised land – land of abundance & freedom
- **God’s vineyard is under judgment**
 - Ps 80:12 – 16 – “Why have You broken down her hedges, so that all who pass by the way pluck her fruit?... (14) Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see, and visit this vine (15) and the vineyard which Your right hand has planted, and the branch that You made strong for Yourself. (16) It is burned with fire, it is cut down; they perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.”
 - God has brought judgment against His transplanted people
 - God planted and nurtured them in the past
 - His right hand had planted
 - He made the branch strong Himself
 - His protection (wall of his vineyard) was removed
 - He allowed invaders to come and take the Israelites
 - As the Israelites drove out the Canaanites previously; now the sinful covenant people are removed
 - God now brought fire & cut it down
 - Vineyard perishes at the rebuke of His countenance
 - Israel’s / Judah’s difficulties are a direct result of God’s actions
 - Not the power of the invader
 - God was using pagan nations to judge His people

- **Why are they under judgment?**
 - Jer 2:21 – “Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?”
 - His people disobeyed Him
 - Turned away from Him
 - The vineyard had gone bad
 - Isa 5:1 – 7 – “Now let me sing to my Well-beloved a song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: my well-beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill. (2) He dug it up and cleared out its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, and also made a winepress in it; so He expected it to bring forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes.... (4) What more could have been done to My vineyard, that I have not done in it?... (5) And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; and break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. (6) I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned or dug, but there shall come up briars and thorns...”
 - The problem is not with the owner of the vineyard (God)
 - Here pathos in God’s voice
 - Problem is with His people
- Plea for divine restoration
 - Ps 80:17 – 19 – “Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself. (18) Then we will not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. (19) Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!”
- **3 keys to revival** (from Psalm 80)
 - **1. Revival springs out of our great need**
 - Psalmist understood their deep need
 - Ps 80:5 – “You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in great measure.”
 - Sadness, hopelessness, loneliness, deep grief
 - Ps 80:6b – “...and our enemies laugh among themselves.”
 - Ridicule & scorn from others
 - Ps 80:12 – “Why have You broken down her hedges, so that all who pass by the way pluck her fruit?”
 - Plundered by anyone and everyone
 - Deep need from within and without
 - Spiritual oppression & darkness without:
 - Eph 6:12 – we wrestle not against flesh & blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places
 - Sins & apathy within
 - Ps 80:4 – God was angry even with the prayers of His people
 - “One mark of a genuine revival is that God’s people awaken to a new & deeper sense of their sinfulness before Him.”

- **2. Revival springs from God alone**
 - We cannot humanly create lasting revival
 - When true revival happens:
 - People are saved
 - Ps 80:19 – “Restore us, O Lord God of hosts....and we shall be saved!”
 - People completely change their life
 - Ps 80:18 – “Then we will not turn back from You...”
 - **3. Revival springs from earnest prayer**
 - No true revival happens apart from earnest prayer
 - Ps 80:3, 7, & 19 – the Psalmists pleads with God: “Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!”
 - John Wesley: “I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer, before I am able to do it.”
 - “God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it.”
 - “I put myself wholly into Thy hands: put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt;
 - put me to doing, put me to suffering,
 - let me be employed for Thee, or laid aside for Thee, or trodden under foot for Thee;
 - let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing,
 - I freely, and heartily resign all to Thy pleasure and disposal.”
- **3 Keys to Revival (from Psalm 80)**
 - 1. Revival springs out of our great need
 - 2. Revival springs from God alone
 - 3. Revival springs from earnest prayer