

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **May 7, 2023**, sermon, “Longing for Mercy.” Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 123) together out loud.

Passage Outline

WHEN WE FIND OURSELVES LONGING FOR MERCY ON LIFE’S JOURNEY, NOTE . . .

1. The focus we need to maintain. (1-2)
 - a. While we experience great challenges and afflictions (“hills”), we keep our eyes focused on the LORD, who is above the hills, and even created them.
 - b. As we focus on the LORD, we trust him to help . . .
 - i. He is very near us (able to hear and faithful to respond).
 - ii. He is sovereign (“enthroned”) as Lord and King over every obstacle. His throne is the throne of grace.
 - c. We wait upon his hand (strength, grace), and we refuse to look to any other.
2. The prayer we need to offer. (3-4)
 - a. We have experienced more than enough contempt and scorn.
 - i. Note that when we are beyond our limits, we look to . . .
 - ii. Jesus, who paid it all, and in whom, “It is finished!”
 - b. We turn to the LORD, verbalizing our neediness before him and asking him to respond.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: When afflictions and challenges appear, it is easy to become focused on them. What are some problems that you have become focused on?
2. Based on #1, above: We do not merely choose to persevere in focusing on the LORD. The act of faith is to see and believe that he is higher, stronger and at work for our good in the mist of the affliction. What has God done to show his strength, power and goodness to you? What was the process he used to raise your gaze from the affliction to himself?
3. Based on #2, above: The plight of believers is despised and mocked by the opinions and words of the world around us. When we say “we cannot take it anymore,” we look to our Jesus, who took it to the uttermost, and uttered, “It is finished!” Discuss.
4. Based on #2, above: When you cry out to the LORD in prayer for mercy (asking him ‘not to give you what you deserve’) what are you praying about? In what way do you depend on the LORD for mercy today?