

**Refuge City Church**  
**“Praiseworthy”: Remember to praise (Psalms 145:5-7)**  
**November 28, 2021**

**Introduction**

- In the last couple weeks, we’ve discussed WHO we praise, and WHY we praise.
- He is God Almighty and is worthy of our praise.
- In His graciousness, He wants to give us access to Himself by means of His Spirit, peace, grace, hope, and eternal life.
- *Today*, we must address the more somber side of all this...
  - We will often forget to praise because of our humanity.
  - We forget that we, ultimately are not in control of this life.
  - We can not thank God when things are good, and blame Him when things don’t go our way.
  - We can not use our access to Him to get what we want, because our mortal expectation of Him should fit into our box of understanding.
- There are times in life when things will not turn out the way we expect.
- What are we to do in those moments that cause us to easily forget God Almighty?
- What’s our response when tragedy, turmoil, temptation, or even our tranquility block our line of sight to God?

**Remember to Praise**

- In the myriad of examples we could use from God’s Word, we look to these as examples: Elijah, Job, and Jesus.
- **Elijah’s Turmoil [1 Kings 19:1-18]**
  - Elijah was one of the most influential prophets of God.
  - In 1 Kings 18, he had just defeated the 450 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel [amazing display of God’s power].
  - The very next moment, Elijah is running for his life, as he has been threatened with death by Queen Jezebel.
    - Fear: **1 Kings 19:3**, “Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life...”
    - Fear turns to turmoil: **1 Kings 19:4**, “...And he asked that he might die, saying, ‘It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.’”
  - He just wanted to die.
    - Most assuredly he was exhausted in ministry & life.
    - Feelings of ineffectiveness.
      - He took a tremendous weight upon his shoulders of not seeing Israel repent and return to the Lord.

- In all this, God still provided for him, and presented Himself to Elijah in the moment he most needed, and reminded him that his ministry was not complete. God had more for him to do.
- Elijah remembered who was in control and relinquished Himself to the mercy and provision of God, and finished his ministry in obedience to what God called him to do.
- **APPLICATION:** Anyone felt so tired and discouraged, they wanted to give up on life?
  - Are things not turning out the way you expect?
  - Did you place an unbiblical expectation on yourself and/or God to accomplish everything in alignment with your flow of life?
  - Did you in those moments of turmoil, remember who God is, His authority over all things, and His grace that enables you to press on?
  - Did you listen for God's voice? Are you willing to be used by God in the powerful, and in the quiet?
  - **Philippians 3:13-14**, "...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
- **Job's Tragedy [Job 1-2]**
  - Job, described as blameless, upright, and God-fearing, and in a very short amount of time, loses his wealth, his children die, and is afflicted with a severe skin disease.
  - All at the hand of Satan, who does so to prove to God that people only worship Him because of what He gives them [prosperity].
    - **Job 1:10-11**, "Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."
    - **Job 1:20-22**, "[after his loss of wealth and children] Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and **fell on the ground and worshiped**. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong."
  - Yet the remaining discourse of the book is filled with conversations about sin, doubt, pain, false claims about God [both from Job and his friends], and questioning God.
    - Even Job's wife implores him to "curse God and die." [Job 2:9-10].
  - In the end, at the very core of who Job was, he gives all glory to God.
    - **Job 42:2-6 NLT**, "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. You said, 'Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.' I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."

- **APPLICATION:** Anyone ever been afflicted with tragedy, and blame God for it?
  - Did you lose sight of who God is, and in the depth of your sorrow, misrepresented His glory? **[Lamentations 3:1-33]**
  - Anyone, in comforting others in the midst of their tragedy, misrepresent God to simply make someone feel better, or talk their way through to provide answers, on behalf of God, for why bad things happen?
  - **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”
- **Jesus’ Temptation [Luke 4:1-13]**
  - **REMINDER:** We absolutely can look to Jesus as an example for our lives.
    - **Hebrews 4:15**, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
  - At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan.
    - Temptation #1: **[hunger]** Satisfying oneself with the things of this world.
    - Temptation #2: **[power]** The attainment of power and glory for oneself.
    - Temptation #3: **[selfishness]** Testing God/forcing His hand to give you what you want.
      - Yet in every temptation, Jesus would answer Satan with the very Word of God.
  - **APPLICATION:** Anyone ever been tempted?? Of course we have, but what will define our response is ‘where’ we were prior to the temptation.
    - **1 Corinthians 10:13**, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”
    - The application of God’s Word, and the divine enablement of God’s grace is what allows us to flee temptation.
    - But, we must not only decide to flee, we must take action immediately.
- **Our Tranquility**
  - “The great danger...lies precisely in his constant contact with divine things.” [Benjamin B. Warfield; 1911]
  - Author Paul David Tripp answers Benjamin Warfield’s “great danger” idea in his book *Dangerous Calling*:
    - “What is the danger? It is that familiarity with the things of God will cause you to lose your awe. You’ve spent so much time in Scripture that its grand redemptive narrative, with its expansive wisdom, doesn’t excite you anymore.”

- May I suggest that we fall prey to do all we can in pursuit of peace and calm, that we shut our ears to God's calling.

## ● APPLICATION

### 1. Stop being ambivalent!

- There is no uncertainty in Jesus. The God of the universe created YOU! There is purpose in everything He does. You are not a mistake.
- **Jeremiah 1:5**, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."
- **Jeremiah 29:11-13**, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

### 2. Stop believing the lies!

- Satan is going to plant lies in your head that striving after God is pointless.
  - Is that not what he implanted in Elijah and Job?
- That all you need in this life is peace, calm, and comfort in what you can attain from this world.
  - Is that not what he offered Jesus?
- We were created for holiness. We were created for worship. We were created with distinct purpose and value. Falling into the world's definition of who you are to be, and what you are to do must not define you.
- **1 John 2:16-17**, "For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."
- **1 Timothy 4:8-10**, "...godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe."

### 3. Stop playing the game!

- We need to stop calling our self a Christian while trying to keep one foot in the world. We need to stop trying to adhere to the latest political and cultural trends while saying we're sold out for Jesus.
- **Revelation 2:4**, "But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first."
- You know who you are in Christ! You know who you *OUGHT* to be! We are told very clearly who we are. If we are made in the image of God, we therefore ought to walk in the same manner as Jesus.

## Conclusion

- **Psalm 77:1-9**, "I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. *Selah* You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. I consider the days of old, the years long ago. I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart." Then my

spirit made a diligent search: “Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?” *Selah*

- Verses 1-9

- Moments of disaster, weariness, pain, depression, etc. where do we go with our hurt?
- It's very common for a lot of people, even those who don't have a relationship with the Lord, to cry out to Him for help.
- In the Psalmist's distress/insomnia, he tries to praise, but feels no comfort, thus his doubt-filled questions.

- **Psalm 77:10-15**, “Then I said, “I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High.” I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah*”

- Verses 10-15

- **Verse 10 [NIV]:** “To this I will appeal: the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.”

- **Psalm 73:21-26**, “When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

- Regardless of whether the Lord provides the comfort we need in the moment we ask for it, doesn't mean He's forgotten us. It doesn't mean He's lost His compassion for us.

- **Psalm 145:5-7**, “On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.”

- We just need to remember who He is, and remember to praise! Amen?!