



Sunday, August 25, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Psalm 131

Humility is one of the greatest, yet one of the more counterintuitive, virtues in the Christian life. Humility is absolutely essential for becoming a Christian—acknowledgement of one's sin and recognition of our hopeless condition before God apart from Christ. It is also essential for growing in the Christian life. It seems that many Christians today find themselves stagnating in the Christian life because they seem to think that they already know everything there is to know. The problem is: in Christianity, the opposite of ignorance is not knowledge, but obedience. And for all of us, we have to be able to humbly see that we have a long way to go.

This was very much the case for David. Though there are times where David is assertive, he is always humble before God. When Saul has him on the run, he is humbled by his circumstances and learns to trust God. When he himself sins, he is confronted, and humbly confesses to the Lord and repents. David learned humility through the many trials that he faced. The same is true of us, if we allow God to be our teacher in the midst of our trials.

Context

This is one of the "Psalms of Ascent" (120-134). These would have been pilgrim songs that the people of Israel would have sung as they traveled to Jerusalem for various feasts. It is especially fitting, then, that we study the Psalms of Ascent as we too are pilgrims on our way to the heavenly Jerusalem for the great wedding feast of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9). This particular psalm reflects on the humility required to hope in God and not in ourselves or manmade tools for the journey. Only as we humble ourselves do we recognize our need for God and turn to Him in hope.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Psalm 131

“The Battle Is Over”

I. Haughty Heart

II. Humble Soul

III. Hopeful Life

Discuss

- 1) How would you know if you are prideful or have a haughty heart?
- 2) Who in your life has been an example of humility to you? How have they been that?
- 3) What events or circumstances in your life have humbled you in God-honoring ways?
- 4) How have you seen God be gracious to you as you humble yourself/are humbled?
- 5) How hopeful are you in day-to-day life? What would you say is the true source of your hope?