



Lesson #4: Look Up (Psalm 123)

In terms of content, these 15 Psalms of Ascent really run the gamut of human emotions. Everything from Psalms of Lament to Psalms of Celebration are recorded. Psalm 123 is most definitely a Psalm of _____.

This is a short psalm (only 4 verses) but we hear the heart of a believer who has faced the brunt of taunts and insults and mockery from scoffers who hate God. Psalm 123 is a brief psalm that makes a single point: If you want to experience life in all its abundance, regardless of the circumstances, _____ to the Lord.

In his commentary on the Psalms, Charles Spurgeon notes the ascending link between Psalm 120 and Psalm 123.

- In Psalm 120 the psalmist **looks up** from his _____.
- In Psalm 121 the psalmist **looks up** to the _____.
- In Psalm 122 the psalmist **looks up** to the _____.
- In Psalm 123 the psalmist **looks up** to _____.

The theme of “looking” is introduced in verses 1-2 where we find the word “eyes” used _____ times. And so Psalm 123 encourages you to look up! You tend to go in the direction you are looking. Don’t look down or at your problems; look above them and to the God who is in control.

In Psalm 123 the psalmist gives us four positions we must take if we are to look to the Lord in times of trial.

LOOK UP THE LORD AS A

_____ TO HIS _____ (123:1)

This verse tells us of the _____ of our faith.

The opening verse of the psalm, with this bold declaration of God’s _____ sets the tone for the whole thing. When you are in need you actually need to look to someone who can meet that need. The psalmist knows exactly where to look. His lifts his eyes to the Lord whose throne is in heaven.

“There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God’s sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will _____ them.” (Spurgeon)

LOOK UP THE LORD AS A

_____ TO HIS _____ (123:2)

Verse 2 teaches us about the _____ of our faith.

The psalmist puts shoes on his belief that God is sovereign. He is not merely there to worship and adore God; he is there to _____ God. This imagery is rich with meaning. It teaches two important things about the servant.

1. **It speaks of** _____ - The servants wait for the master’s direction.
2. **It speaks of** _____ - When the Master is dealing with adversaries the servant doesn’t need to understand or concern with the Master’s strategy; he is called on to trust.

LOOK UP THE LORD AS A

_____ TO HIS _____ (123:2b-3)

Verse 2b-3 teaches us about the _____ of our faith.

This psalm is a _____ addressed to God. But notice this: The voice shifts from first person _____ in verse 1 to first person _____ in verse 2 and 3. He is not praying on his own behalf but as an intercessor for all the people of God.

There is nothing _____ about this prayer, even though it comes from circumstances that would tempt any of us to pray selfishly. The psalmist refuses to stroke feelings of self-pity or his own personal desire for comfort.

LOOK UP THE LORD AS A

_____ TO HIS _____ (123:3b-4)

Verse 3b-4 teaches us about the _____ of faith.

All of the preceding verses evoke humility and these last verses resonate with us because they express what most of us feel in a secularized society that is increasingly hostile to biblical principles. The psalmist had it up to here with the enemies sneering persecution.

1. **“Contempt”** – Refers to an attitude of _____ condescension.
2. **“Scorn”** – Refers to _____ abuse or mocking derision.

Still, in spite of all this, the psalmist doesn’t plead for vengeance or vindication.. Despite all his trouble, he just wants _____.

Concluding Thoughts

Our Heavenly father _____ to hear us cry out to Him for help. He desires that we look to Him in our time of need and reach out to Him in our time of hurt. Where do you go in times of trouble? **Experiencing the fullness of God’s grace and love is a matter of where you _____.**