

Songs of Ascent # 4 - Ps 123 - The Hand of The Master

Psalm 123:1-4 I lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven. 2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy. 3 Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us, for we have endured much contempt. 4 We have endured much ridicule from the proud, much contempt from the arrogant.

Are you willing to lift your eyes to Him?

Where do you set your eyes? - Where do you turn your attention?

- I lift up my eyes to YOU (eyes are mentioned 4 times in this psalm)
Here are the other 3 times found in Psalm 123:2
As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God, [*KJV so our eyes wait on thee*]

Psalm 25:15 My eyes are ever on the LORD, for **only he** will release my feet from the snare.

Lifting up my eyes to the Lord is an act of Faith

- We believe he sees (vs - we are not sure if he sees)
- We believe he cares (vs -but if he sees, we're not sure he cares)
- We believe he can act (vs -even if he cares, he won't do anything about it)

We have an open invitation to come to Him - we should take advantage

James 4:2 - You do not have, because you do not ask God.

James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you.....

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Are you willing to be a slave/servant?

It is the servant whose eyes are on the hand of the master...it is not the casual observer or someone who is carrying on with the stuff of life...it is the servant whose eyes are FIXED - awaiting the gesture from the hand of the master.

Mark 10:43-45 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

John 4:34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

Piercing of the ear

Psalm 40:6-8 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, **but my ears you have pierced**; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. 7 Then I said, “Here I am,

I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. 8 I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

Exodus 21:5-6 “But if the servant declares, ‘I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,’ 6 then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost **and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.**

Are you willing to wait?

Psalm 123:2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God [*KJV so our eyes wait on thee*] ... TILL

- “Till” means waiting.
- Waiting assumes the Lord will give some indication of his desire
- There is an anticipation of doing - it is an expectancy that the master will call the servant for a task
like a player on the bench waiting for the coach to call his name for a play

Psalm 27:13-14 I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Psalm 25:4-5 Show me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. 5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

What About Jesus...?

He did what the Father was doing

John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

He said what the Father was saying

John 12:4-50 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

...But He Paid the Price

He spent the night in prayer before making a big decision

Luke 6:12-13 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and **spent the night** praying to God. 13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

He spent time ALONE - VERY EARLY in the morning - to discern the will of God

Mark 1:35-38 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to **a solitary place**, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” 38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

He cried out in prayer during a great trial - and committed to the will of God

Mark 14:32-36 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34 **“My soul is overwhelmed** with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” 35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 36 “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. **Yet not what I will, but what you will.**”

Often He withdrew to the lonely places to discern the will of God

Luke 5:15-16 15 Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. 16 But **Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**