

Why Me?

Psalm 8

I. Scripture reading: 1 Peter 1

II. “Why Me?” “Why did this happen to me?” When we typically hear (or ask) these questions, they are asked in the context of something difficult, unpleasant or terrible happening to us. This is what the archetypal sufferer, Job, meant when he asked, “What is man that you make so much of him?” (Job 7:17). “Of all the people on earth, why should I be the one to encounter such trials? Surely there is some terrible person who deserves these terrible circumstances more than I!” This morning we are going to ask those original questions with a very different attitude. Yes, we are going to ask the Great Father these questions out of profound and humble gratitude. We will ask, along with the Psalmist, why we should so benefit from our God’s kindness and consideration.

III. Who are we? We’re dust. Sons of men are piles of dust animated by the Spirit-breath of God. Without God, the dust wouldn’t even have been there! So what are we? All of the earth was created before we were. God didn’t need us to help Him imagine or bring into being any of the marvels of His universe. We were the last of God’s works in the six days of creative work, and yet He deemed us His best. Then, despite our smallness, God appointed us the rulers of his earthly creation. Why? Why us? It is simply because God is good and God is wise. His love explains it all. What else can explain it? David, the author of this psalm, truly understood the humble gratitude we should have. When God made promises to him and his descendants, David responded with this question: “Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?” (2 Samuel 7:18).

IV. The Heart of the Matter: As we approach this coming day of Thanksgiving, proclaimed by our national since generations past, let us not allow the celebrations of the day to become empty motions. The ancient Israelites are our example of how distasteful such empty holy day observations are to God. Why should we allow ourselves to enjoy such overflow of blessings (good food, loving company, warmth, tradition and laughter) while others struggle to even hope for a glimmer of such good things? Why me? Why us? What should we do to truly honor the Giver of all good gifts on that day of hustle and bustle? Most basic of all, we should voice our thanks to God and acknowledge our dependence on His generous hand. We should do it individually and as families. We should vocalize our thanks, not just assume that God knows how thankful we are. Thanksgiving involves *giving* thanks. The act of speaking words of thanks is not the heart of the matter, however. The heart of the matter is the humble realization that we simply are not enough on our own. We need the kindness of God to have *any* good thing. Christian, I know you know this cognitively, but what I must ask is this: Do you realize it in your deepest parts? Are you fully aware of your inadequacy? Do you truly see that apart from the kind decisions of our God, we would have nothing – we would be nothing? This humble view of ourselves as totally dependent on God is the source of true thanksgiving.

V. Complaint-Free Living: So let us return to our original question: Why me? When we ask this question out of a sense of offended pride, we show that we do not understand who we really are. Do you see that complaining is an exercise in self-delusion? “I deserve better!” is the mantra of the self-exalting heart. We who are disciples of Jesus Christ must be the lights of the world who must show the humble heart of Jesus Himself. Jesus suffered more injustice than any of us can even comprehend (see 1 Peter 2:23). We know that the apostle Paul instructed the disciples of Jesus to do everything without complaining (Philippians 2:14). Let us, then, live the lives of complaint-free gratitude that speaks loudly to the world that God is God and there is no other. We all depend entirely on Him.