



Surprised by Joy
8th in the “Psalms” Series
Psalm 8
December 11, 2022
Pastor Kurt Pazdra

Introduction

In this sermon, we learn how to let Psalm 8 lead us in joyful praise—no matter the darkness we face or feel.

The Text: Psalm 8

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith.
A Psalm of David.

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| <p>¹ O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.</p> <p>² Out of the mouth of babies and infants,,
you have established strength because of your foes,
To still the enemy and avenger.</p> <p>³ When I look at your heavens,
the work of your fingers
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?</p> | <p>⁵ You have made him a little lower than the
heavenly beings [or, <i>than God</i>]
and crowned him with glory and honor.</p> <p>⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of
your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,
⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
⁹ O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!</p> |
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Message: Simply being human is an exciting reason to praise God with joy, especially when we look at all King Jesus has done for us. Jesus defeated our enemies and leads a truly human life for us to follow into God’s glory.

Q: How do we let a Psalm like Psalm 8 lead us in joyful praise to God—no matter the darkness we face or feel?

A: We read with our hearts, heads, and then our hearts again:

1. Let our hearts **follow** *where* the Psalm **leads** us. (Proclaim God’s glory by praising his Name!) [v.1]
2. Let our heads **ponder** *what* the Psalm **shows** us. (All creation praises God and we must join!) [vv. 1, 3, 7-9]
3. Let our hearts **delight** *when* the Psalm **jolts** us. (Here I’m giving God glory... God gave me glory?!) [4-6]
4. Let us **receive** King Jesus in the Psalm. (Jesus came to defeat our enemies and fulfill our destiny!) [2]
5. **Respond** with *joyful praise* to the LORD, no matter what darkness we face or feel. [9]

Application

With thankful hearts, let’s praise God with joy as we approach the Lord’s Supper and Advent.

Sunday Text Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: Describe the feeling of losing joy. What are the reasons why people may find joy hard to feel during Advent/Christmas?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) The Psalms are written to lead us in praising God with the right emotion and doctrine – our hearts and heads in unison. Why should we read the Psalms with our hearts, our heads, and then our hearts again?
- 4) How does the start of this Psalm (vv.1-2) invite our hearts into thanksgiving, praise, and joy?
- 5) How does the structure of this Psalm guide the way we praise God (especially vv.1-3, 7-9)?
- 6) Read vv. 4-6. Is there anything shocking about these verses? If so, what?
- 7) How do you respond when God's Word declares that God crowned humanity with glory and honor? What do you feel when you hear this?
- 8) Read Daniel 7:13-14, 27, which is a vision about Jesus receiving his dominion, glory, and a kingdom. Compare what you find in these verses with Psalm 8:4-7. What is similar, and why?
- 9) How do you feel knowing that King Jesus, who is truly God and truly human, reigns in victory over our sin and death and leads us in living a truly human life that gives God glory as we reign with him?
- 10) What can you do with what you've learned to spread the joy of King Jesus this Christmas?

Further study this week: Please do your advent reading! It's not too late to pick up a booklet in the lobby.