

11/08/20

Psalm 123

Title: Look to the Lord Regardless of the Circumstances

Psalm 123 is a brief song making a single point: If you want to experience life in all its abundance, regardless of the circumstances, look to the Lord. Psalm 123 was composed and sang by King David to calm down the rising waters at the foundation of the temple.

Sacred places still play an important role for people of faith in our times. For example:

- Roman Catholics flock to the Vatican.
- Mormons go to Salt Lake City.
- Hindus gather on the banks of the Genghis River.
- Muslims make Haj to Mecca.

Where are the places that we consider Holy as Methodist Christians?

1. THE UNITED METHODIST BUILDING ON CAPITOL HILL (Witness to the World)



The United Methodist Building is the only non-governmental building on Capitol Hill — giving public witness at the seat of U.S. government that The United Methodist Church is an advocate for justice and peace.

2. THE UPPER ROOM



The Upper Room Chapel in Nashville, Tennessee is a place of prayer and reflection, as well as the anchor of a spiritual formation ministry that since 1935 has distributed millions of copies of its flagship devotional guide to 100 countries in 35 languages.

- “To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!” (Psalm 123:1 NRSV)
- Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6 NRSV)
- “As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress; so our eyes look to Yahweh, our God, until he has mercy on us” (Psalm 123:2 NRSV)
- “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.” (Matthew 6:1-4 NLT)
- “But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.” (Matthew 6:6 NLT)

Conclusion: You can look up from your sadness, despair and call for help; you can look to the hills for tangible signs of God’s strength; you can look to holy places to give you peace, solace and comfort; but, if you want to experience life in abundance, regardless of the circumstances, look to the Lord.

Focus on the Cross, and that’s the message of this old hymn by Helen Lemmel that goes, “Turn your eyes upon Jesus...”