

## **PSALM 123 2024 – Prayer for Relief from Contempt!**

3/2/24 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com)

*Psa 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, **Until He has mercy on us.***

*Psa 123:3 **Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us!** For we are exceedingly filled with contempt.*

**SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY** – John Petersen, Alfred Smith – Graham Crusade Choir (2:56)

*A pilgrim was I, and a wandering, In the cold night of sin I did roam,  
When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me, And now I am on my way home.*

*(Chorus):*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life;  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.*

*He restoreth my soul when I'm weary, He giveth me strength day by day;  
He leads me beside the still waters, He guards me each step of the way. (Chorus)*

*And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever, And I shall feast at the table spread for me;  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.  
All the days, all the days of my life.*

**PSALM 123 – A Psalm of Ascents** – We are climbing. The first step (*Psalm 120*), saw us lamenting our troublesome surroundings, and the next saw us lifting our eyes to the hills and resting in assured security; from this we rose to delight in the house of the LORD; but here we look to the LORD Himself, and this is the highest ascent of all by many degrees. The eyes are now looking above the hills, not to Jerusalem, as important as that city was, or even the temple in Jerusalem, as important as it was, but to God Himself, whose true throne is not anywhere on earth but in the heavens! Let us know it as “The Psalm of the eyes.” It appears to describe days remote from David, it is all the more evident that the Psalmist was also a prophet, and sang what he saw in vision.

***Our Eyes Look to the Lord Our God - A Song of Ascents.***

***Psa 123:1 Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens.***

- It is good to have someone to look up to. The Psalmist looked so high that he could look no higher.
- Not to the hills, but to the God of the hills he looked. God is everywhere, and yet it is most natural to think of Him as being above us, in that glory-land which lies beyond the skies.
- *O You who dwell in the heavens!* This just sets forth the unsophisticated idea of a child of God in distress;
- God is, God is in heaven, God resides in one place, and God is evermore the same, therefore will I look to Him. When we cannot look to any helper on a level with us it is greatly wise to look above us; in fact, if we have a thousand helpers, our eyes should still be toward the Lord. Let us think no hour of the day inopportune for waiting upon the Lord; no watch of the night too dark for us to look to Him.

***Psa 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy (*chesed* – lovingkindness, favor, beauty) on us.***

- See, O Lord, how we look to You, and in Your mercy, look on us. This Behold has, however, a call to us to observe and consider. Sanctification is a miracle of grace; therefore let us behold it.
- For God to have wrought in men the spirit of service is a great marvel, and as such let all men turn aside and see this great sight.
- *As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress*; This second comparison may be used because Eastern women are even more thorough than the men in the training of their servants.
- *So our eyes look to the LORD our God*. So as the servant, the eyes of the servant, look to the hand of their masters, the eyes of the maiden to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes we stand looking to God, waiting for those signs of God's mercy. Waiting for those indications of God's mercy upon us. Our eyes look upon the LORD, our God, until we have that mercy upon us.
- *Until He has mercy on us*. That He have mercy upon us because of that covenant. He will show mercy to us; but we may have to wait for it." God has His time and season. We must wait until it comes.
- Mercy is that which we need, that which we look for, that which our Lord will manifest to us.
- It is a great mercy to be enabled to wait for mercy.

***Psa 123:3 Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us! For we are exceedingly filled with contempt (mocking, disrespect, despised).***

- *Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy upon us!* He hangs upon the word "mercy," and embodies it in a vehement prayer, the very word seems to hold him, and he harps upon it. It is well for us to pray about everything, and turn everything into prayer; and especially when we are reminded of a great necessity we should catch at it as a keynote, and pitch our tune to it.
- The reduplication of the prayer before us is meant to express the eagerness of the Psalmist's spirit and his urgent need, what he needed speedily he begs for fervently! Our contemptuous opponents will have no mercy upon us. Let us not ask it at their hands, but turn to the God of mercy, and seek His aid alone.
- *For we are exceedingly filled with contempt*. A little contempt they could bear, but now they were satiated with it, and weary of it. Do we wonder at the threefold mention of mercy when this master evil was in the ascendant? Nothing is more wounding, embittering, festering than disdain. Oh to be filled with communion, and then contempt will run off from us, and never be able to fill us with its biting vinegar.

***Psa 123:4 Our soul is exceedingly filled With the scorn (derision, scoffing) of those who are at ease, With the contempt of the proud.***

- *Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease*. Knowing no troubles of their own, the easy ones grow cruel and deride the people of the Lord. Having the godly already in secret contempt, they show it by openly scorning them. Note those who do this' they are not the poor, the humble, the troubled, but those who have a merry life of it and are self-content. Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion; their contempt of the godly shall

hasten and increase their misery.

- *With the contempt of the proud.* The proud think so much of themselves that they must needs think all the less of those who are better than themselves. Pride is both contemptible and contemptuous. Great hearts have been broken and brave spirits have been withered beneath the accursed power of falsehood, and the horrible blight of contempt.
- For our comfort we may remember that our divine Lord was despised and rejected of men, yet He ceased not from his perfect service till He was exalted to dwell in the heavens. Let us bear our share of this evil which still rages under the sun, and let us firmly believe that the contempt of the ungodly shall turn to our honour in the world to come. Even now it serves as a certificate that we are not of the world, for if we were of the world the world would love us as its own.

**ALWAYS** - Kristian Stanfill (4:24)

*My foes are many, they rise against me But I will hold my ground I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm My help is on the way, my help is on the way*

*Refrain: Oh, my God, He will not delay My refuge and strength always I will not fear, His promise is True My God will come through always, always*

*Troubles surround me, chaos abounding My soul will rest in You I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm My help is on the way, my help is on the way (Refrain)*

*I lift my eyes up, my help comes from the Lord (4X)*

*From You Lord, from You Lord*

*Oh, my God, He will not delay My refuge and strength always I will not fear, His promise is true*

*My God will come through always, always Oh, my God, He will not delay My refuge and strength always, always*

*I lift my eyes up, my help comes from the Lord (4X)*

*From You Lord, from You Lord*

***PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:***

***PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation!***

***CC LIVING WORD STAFF/LEADERSHIP – FOR A NEW LOCATION!!***

