

Learning to Pray From the Psalms

The **P.S.A.L.M.S.** Acronym (4)
Leading

Lesson 6
May 14

We're learning, discussing, and memorizing a simple acronym - **P.S.A.L.M.S.** - that can provide a framework for prayer:

- **Praise:** "God, I praise you for..."
- **Satisfaction:** "God, if I have you, it is enough; I am satisfied because..."
- **Acknowledgement:** "God, please be merciful and gracious; I..."
- **Leading:** "God, I need you; lead me in..."

Let's focus on the fourth letter: **LEADING**. In your own words, what does it mean to be "led" by someone other than yourself? What does it *take* to be led by someone else? There are obviously lots of possibilities as to whose lead we will follow; why should we be willing to say this to God? What are we really communicating when we say to him, "Lead me"?

"God, I need you; lead me in..."

Psalms 5:1-8 is a great example of this sort of prayer.

Give ear to my words, O LORD;
consider my groaning.

Give attention to the sound of my cry,
my King and my God,
for to you do I pray.

O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.

The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
you hate all evildoers.

You destroy those who speak lies;
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
will enter your house.

I will bow down toward your holy temple
in the fear of you.

Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness
because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.

- Take a moment to notice and think about where the psalmists were praying that the LORD would lead them in 23:2-3 and 25:5. In your own words, what are they saying?
- Let's open our Bibles together back to Psalm 31 and study the impact this sort of prayer had on David. In 31:3, he acknowledged God as his rock and his fortress, "and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me." Look before and after verse 3. When David prayed, "I need you, O God; lead me..." what impact did that have on his life?

Hear my cry, O God,
listen to my prayer;
from the end of the earth I call to you
when my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I... (Psa 61:1-2)

- What do you think David means by "the rock that is higher than I"?
- When Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:13, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," what did he mean and why is that a great thing to pray?
- Let's do a little bit of brainstorming together: we still need God to lead us just as much as anyone who has ever come before us because... And he is willing and able to lead us... how? How do you think God continues to answer the "lead me" prayer today?