



river west church

The Unexpected Majesty of God

Psalm 8

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Undeniable Majesty

Psalm 8 is a spectacular hymn of praise. When you want to lift up worship and thanks to God, but you can't find the right words, go to Psalm 8. It will do your heart good. This morning we have the privilege of entering into heartfelt worship to God with Psalm 8 as our guide.

When David wrote this Psalm, it seems that he wanted the point to be utterly clear. So, he bracketed the prayer with two identical statements. "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" (Ps. 8:1,9). You may recognize this phrase. It shows up in many of our songs of worship in the church. What a fitting way to acknowledge the greatness of God. When the Bible talks about majesty, it is saying that God is perfect in power and excellence. God is glorious. God is gracious and good. But these qualities of God are not evident just to the few. David wants us to see that the majesty of God is a global reality.

You cannot go anywhere on the planet and not be confronted with the greatness of God. His name is majestic in all the earth! It is undeniable. It is obvious. He has set his glory above the heavens (Vs. 1b). They declare His glory and His handiwork (Ps. 19:1). That is the point of Psalm 8. But if that is the point, then why do we need verses 2-8? What do they have to do with God's majesty? As you read on in Psalm 8 something unexpected happens.

Unexpected Humility

Psalm 8 reads like one big contrast. Take a look for yourself. As you read the prayer, you go from the immense greatness of God in verse 1 to the startling humility of human beings in verses 2-4, from the glory of God in the heavens to babies and mere mortals. What is David doing? What are babies doing in a Psalm about the majesty of God (vs. 2)? What are lowly humans that the all-powerful creator of the universe would take note of us (vs. 4)? The answer will shock you. God in His majesty stoops to make the weak the means of his triumph and rule on the earth.

What are the babies doing in verse 2? Nothing big...they're just silencing God's enemies! What are human beings doing in verses 5-8? Not a whole lot...they're just ruling the universe!!

If I could summarize Psalm 8 in one phrase, here's what I would say: "Undeniable Majesty displayed in Unexpected Humility".

But, now we have to ask a really important question. Who cares? What's the point? In order to understand the significance of Psalm 8, we need the Gospel.

Unbelievable Savior

Psalm 8 is quoted or referenced at least 10 times in the New Testament. Not surprisingly, every reference has to do with Jesus. It makes sense. If you want to get to the heart of the good news of Jesus, you have to understand the notion of "majesty expressed in humility".

Here's how the writer of Hebrews unpacks the meaning of Psalm 8:4-6. "But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews

2:9). Did you see it? It's all there; humility, lowliness, suffering, sacrifice, but also glory, honor, grace, and salvation.

Jesus is the key to understanding Psalm 8. He is like the missing piece of the puzzle that makes everything fit together. The contrast of Psalm 8 only begins to make sense when we see the crucified and risen Christ standing at the center of all reality. It's the majesty and glory of God displayed in the humility and suffering of his Christ. Will you worship Him this morning? Will you look to Jesus in humble faith? Will you declare with your whole heart, "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth"?