

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 - Day 13 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you know that in this world we are under great pressure, so that at times, we fall, we get hurt, we are wounded, we retreat. Remind us that in our weakness, Your strength is enough. You can pick us up and place us on the path You desire for us to walk. You can heal any wound or hurt. And when we retreat, we can retreat to the shadow of the cross, and abide in You. This week, help me find refuge in You, O Lord. Amen.

Read Psalm 8:1-4, 9 (NIV)

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Answer the following questions:

Majestic is an adjective which means “having or showing impressive beauty or dignity, which inspires reverence or admiration.” The Hebrew word for Majestic is “ad-deer” and it points to the majesty of the sea, a tree flourishing, or the great one among kings or nobles. The Psalmist begins and ends with the phrase, “Lord, O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

1. Why do you think the Psalmist begins and ends this way?

When I used to work with student ministries, I would take my leadership team of Senior High and College Students out on a backpacking trip, which we called “No Wimps.” We would hike through the Ozark Mountains for 8 days, carrying our food and sleeping under a tarp – one tarp for everyone. It was always fun to see how students who had not been outdoors for extended periods of time would adapt to their surroundings. Without fail, the first thing that jumped out at them (after they got past sleeping out in the open under a tarp) was how dark it got at night, and how many stars there really are in the sky. They would come back to the beauty of the skies each night. They would see new facets, new constellations, new moving objects...and it filled them with a renewed sense of wonder.

2. When you look up at the splendor of the skies, what comes to mind? Are you drawn to a place of wonder? What would it take to draw you to a place of wonder today?

3. The Psalmist points out that when considering the moon and the stars, the work of God's fingers and hands, the grandeur of what God creates, he is humbled and awed by God. Does the reality of our smallness in comparison to the greatness of God's celestial creation awe you? Why or why not?

4. Though small, God still cares for you. Though human, God still created you. Though fallible, God's love for you is great! How does that truth make you feel today?

God is good, and His love endures forever. His mercies are new every morning! Therefore, let us throw off the sin that so easily entangles and run the race marked out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Let us run to the refuge of the King, and allow Him to care for us, equipping us to continue the race.

Close in Prayer

Rather than me giving you a prayer to close with this week, take a few moments and write a prayer today which relates to God's refuge. Put it on a post-it note and leave it on your bathroom mirror, that will give you 6 different prayers by the end of the week to pray as you get ready in the morning, or wind down in the evening.