

Behold Our God! Reflections in Psalms

[Psalm 50](#)

“God the Giver”– November 26, 2023



Introduction

When you are sound asleep, what wakes you up? This may depend on your season of life. What if waking up meant enjoying rest? Those things don't seem to fit together, but what if that blazing loud alarm clock was for your good? This is what God's discipline works like. If you respond correctly, God's discipline gives you rest. It is for your good and for His glory. As we look at this scripture, picture a divine courtroom.

Sermon Outline

1. God the Judge Vs. 1 - 6
2. The externally righteous Vs. 7 - 15
3. The visibly wicked Vs. 16-23

Read & Discuss

1. Read vs. 1 – 6

God is THE Mighty One - a divine warrior. He is able, ultimate, and the One Who rules everything. He reigns over all things. What is your view of God like? Is He the Mighty One to you? No one else compares to Him. He is the Lord - Yahweh. He is high and lifted up, but He is also near and faithful to us. God speaks as one Who is in control, and all of creation obeys His voice.

When God steps onto the scene, witness the perfection of beauty. He is the standard of beauty. Do you sense the awe of God's beauty? Do you see the glory of God in creation and in His children? Have you considered the beauty of God? The way you view God matters.

We must take Him seriously. He is both beautiful and terrifying. ([vs. 3](#)) He judges His people. ([vs. 4](#)) Are you ready for that? The first readers of this psalm were under a different covenant. They were to offer sacrifices for their sin. Sin requires a sacrifice of blood. God is a righteous Judge. He sees all that we are. He knows our thoughts and actions. May we be open to what He has to say.

2. Read vs. 7 – 15

God rebukes the externally righteous and commands His people to hear Him - to listen. He is telling His people to hear His correction and then adjust their behavior. Don't just be hearers of the word but be doers also. ([James 1:22](#)) He does this because He loves us.

The people to whom this psalm refers were doing what they were supposed to do on the outside, at the surface level. They looked the right way, said the right things, and did the right things. However, their good works were no good. Everything in creation that could be given to God is already His. We are His. It is ALL His. Do you view God as the all-sufficient One that needs nothing? Do you realize that all you have belongs to Him? Your good works cannot buy God's favor. He cannot or will not ever be in our debt. We are in His debt. Are you doing the right things for the right reason?

You can try to live a good life, but it isn't about what you are doing. It is about **why** you are doing them. The “why” (the heart) matters. In everything you do, remember who God is and that He loves a sinner like you and me. Call up on God, and He will deliver you. This brings glory to God. Where do you go in the day of trouble? Upon what or whom do you call when life falls apart?

3. Read vs. 16-23

God is not indifferent to evil. He is not indifferent to hypocrisy. He is a terrifying, holy Judge, and He will not be mocked. Here, God calls them “wicked,” and then He shows them their wickedness. Just as the Ten Commandments are a mirror to reveal our sin, God shows them their sin. Do you try to avoid discipline from God? The ones to whom God is speaking here did try to avoid it.

If you don't heed God's discipline, why do you come to worship on Sunday morning? Do you want to know the God of beauty and perfection? Do you come to Sunday worship because you love God or because it is what you think you are "supposed to do?" Do you cast God's words behind you? ([vs. 17](#)) This is a dangerous place to be.

Avoiding God's discipline will create a barren wasteland of your life. How do you see sin? With whom do you keep company? Are you looking to the things of the world to fulfill the desires of your heart? God is here to correct. This is your wake-up call. God sees it all, and He is right in all that He does. He is good. This rebuke is God's mercy and love toward us to bring us back to Him. God cares about wickedness. ([vs. 22](#)) He is warning us that it will end in judgment if we ignore His discipline. This is His loving patience. He is not silent, dismissing your sin. He is patient and loving.

God has made a way for us to be right with Him through Jesus. Jesus took on our wickedness. We can be remade in Christ. There is no more condemnation to those in Christ Jesus. ([Romans 8:1](#)) What is your view of God? What is your view of your sin? Do you think you are good enough? Do you see your need for God? Come to Him.

Additional Reading: Exodus 20

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at fbcum.org

Next week's sermon text: we turn to Genesis 49:1-28 "God Bless You"
