

Sermon Discussion

13 December 2020

Read Psalm 103 together.

Dig Deeper

This popular Davidic psalm of individual thanksgiving reviews God's mercies and expresses confident hope in His covenant promises. It contains no requests. Though there is no real connection between this psalm and the preceding one, this one expresses thanks for answered prayer, which Psalm 102 requested.

In verses 3-5, God's blessings include forgiveness of sins, healing from sickness, deliverance from death, enrichment of life, satisfaction, and rejuvenation.

The expression "*your youth is renewed like the eagle's*" may allude to the phenomenon of molting, whereby the eagle grows new feathers. Eagles remain strong to the end of their lives. Generally speaking, though we may decline physically over time, God enables His people to remain spiritually vigorous until the end.

1. Do you agree with A.W. Tozer's quote, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us?" Why or why not?
2. The sermon talked about different ways people relate to God: like a solicitor with whom you negotiate, like a grandfather who is out of touch, like a clockmaker who winds up the world and then is now longer personal and present, or like a referee waiting to fault you for a penalty. Do you struggle with viewing God in any of these ways?
3. Isaiah calls the Messiah our Everlasting Father. How has your own earthly father helped or harmed your relationship with God? Is that experience one you have tried to overcome or replicate in your own parenting or mentoring?
4. Some theologians have said that the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 should be renamed the parable of the Prodigal Father because of its emphasis on the father's actions towards his wayward son. Read the parable together. What does this story illustrate about God's role as our Heavenly Father?

Application & Prayer

- Has this sermon pointed any area in your life that you need God to transform? Ask someone to pray with you about it.
- What is one thing God seems to be asking you to do in response to this passage? Who can you tell about this "I will" statement in the next 48 hours?