

Readings

Scripture

¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ²Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. ³Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, ¹²to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

[The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] ¹⁴The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. ¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰The Lord preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

- Psalm 145 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with (the perfect hearer died a year ago).

- C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms* (p. 95)

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

- Psalm 145:8-9 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

The Goodness of Mercy
Psalm 145

Year Verse 2017
Brad Anderson

We are called to praise God because it completes our enjoyment of Him...
(Psalm 145:1-3, 21)

How does Psalm 145 express the basics, the ABC's of praise, for God's goodness?

His goodness expressed from generation to generation. (Psalm 145:4-7)

His goodness expressed in mercy. (Psalm 145:8-9)

His goodness expressed in a glorious kingdom. (Psalm 145:10-13a)

His goodness expressed through abundant provision. (Psalm 145:13b-20)

Reflection Questions *(taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)*

- Have you ever seen a modern day monarch? What is the purpose of royalty? How do they differ from presidents or prime ministers?
- According to Psalm 145:1-3, why does God deserve praise?
- According to Psalm 145:4-7, what method will be used to spread the divine king's fame? Won't it be obvious to everyone?
- Is the king's good repute merely the result of effective propaganda or is there more substance to it? List all the reasons given for praising God. Which is most exciting to you? What is the divine king's true greatness, as Psalm 145:8 reveals?
- How does God treat subjects? (Psalm 145:9) How do the subjects treat God? (Psalm 145:10) Do all subjects respond equally? (Psalm 145:10-13)
- How does the Lord return loyalty given? (Psalm 145:13-16) What kind of king is this? What two characteristics does the Lord hold in balance? (Psalm 145:17)
- What does the divine king promise to give to those who call on him earnestly? (Psalm 145:18-20) What can one's only response to these gifts be? (Psalm 145:21)
- Picture yourself as one of the king's subjects. What's good about living in this kingdom?