

Psalm 134 - Noticed at Night

INTRO – Ps. 134 is a little Psalm with some big encouragement. It mentions kingdom service that is little recognized and praise offered to God when no one is around. Today I want to encourage us Christians to be involved in kingdom work – we ought to be a busy church...we should be engaged. But I also want to remind us that Christian service is often done behind closed doors & kingdom work is often labor when no one is looking. But this service done in secret; this praise in the dark and when all alone; is not unnoticed. Many serve at night, out of sight and behind the scenes where nobody sees...except God

The fact that God sees is a perfection of His character that ought to motivate us to praise and worship. Scripture tells us that He sees all and knows all. Nature tells us the same. Does He who made the eye not see? Does He who made the mind not know? God sees and knows even when nobody else does.

Serving in Secret

Praising in Secret

God sees what is in Secret

SERVING IN SECRET

- Title – “Song of Ascents” Ps. 134 is the last of 15 of these songs of ascents (120-134)
 - These were songs sung on the way up to Jerusalem to worship
 - Do you worship before you get here? Do we sing on the way here?
 - These songs were sung on their way to church or maybe on their way home from church
- Ps. 134:1 This is a call to worship
 - to lift up our eyes - *Behold* our heads hang down a lot...have the wrong focus
 - behold your God and turn your eyes upon Jesus
 - to lift up our voices *Bless the Lord*
 - the world curses God but we bless Him and say a good word about our good God
- Notice who is being encouraged to be doing this “beholding” and “blessing” - Ps. 134:1b
 - Those who serve at night. Those who continue to serve when the church service is over
 - We know that Christian service doesn't end when the church service ends?
 - Many priests served at night and out of the limelight 1 Chron. 9:26-33
 - Night watchmen. Gatekeepers who guarded & then greeted when opening doors
 - Counted the utensils. They made sure there were enough forks and spoons
 - Checked the furniture and fancy utensils
 - Some kept the cupboards stocked with flour, wine, oil and spices
 - Some had responsibility to cook and some had charge of the special bread
 - The singers were engaged day and night (music doesn't just happen)
- There are many unsung servants in Gods kingdom. They serve *at night* and out of sight
 - Unnamed slave girl who told her leprous master Naaman about a prophet who could help
 - Rhoda the doorkeeper - Acts 12:13 (Psalm 84:10)
 - Tabitha who made quilts & garments as an expression of kindness/charity - Acts 9:36,39
 - Boy with his few fish and loaves. Ebed the Ethiopian - Jer. 38:12-13
 - Who kept the lights perpetually burning at night in Temple?

- Christian service doesn't end when the church service ends.
 - Some received dictation and then delivered copies of scriptures to churches- Rom. 16:23
- Be involved and busy and don't despise the small things done in the "dark" (Zech. 4:10)

PRAISING IN SECRET

- Ps. 134:2 those serving in obscurity at night are encouraged to lift up their hands and praise
 - It like singing in the shower when no one is home
- Our praise is proved when we are removed from the public worship service
 - Do we praise God at night and in secret or only in corporate and public settings?
 - Ruth 2:4 Praising God in a work environment – faith in the fields
 - If it is not real at home, work , school....it is not real
 - secret service = genuine service praise in secret is its proving ground
- 1 Cor. 10:31 every aspect of life is to be engaged in seeking God's glory
 - Luke 2:37 Anna served night and day
 - Christian service isn't over when the church service is over
 - Praise shouldn't cease when June gets off the platform
 - Serve day and night. Bless at work and home. Act Christian at church and school
 - Lift hands at night and praise God in secret

GOD SEES WHATS IN SECRET

- Ps. 134:3 the ones serving and praising at night are noticed and blessed by God
 - the small and obscure service that is unseen by others is obvious to God. He sees
- Matt. 6:4,6 God sees what is done in secret
 - Matt. 10:42 a small niceness is big news in heaven kindness is kingdom work
 - Ebed the Ethiopian's kindness was noticed by God (Jer. 39:16-18)
 - 1 Cor. 15:58 toil in God's field (even at night) is not in vain
 - Gal. 6:9 don't lose heart and become weary in well doing
 - Heb. 6:10
- Who was the woodcutter for all the sacrifices?
 - I knew a skeptic and this was his big issue/problem...." where did all the wood come?"
 - Neh. 13:31 God will not forget the woodcutter
- Nothing is unnoticed by God
 - Small and obscure service. Cup of water and small act of kindness
 - Praise at night. Blessing God outside of the church setting
 - Silent prayer that no one hears but God
- Christian service doesn't end when the church service ends
 - Serve in secret
 - Praise in secret
 - God sees what is done in secret