



The Lament of a Servant Scorned

Lesson 6 • Psalm 123

Where Are We On Our Journey to Joy?

- The next three Psalms of Ascents (123-125) repeat the pattern we saw in the first three Psalms of Ascents (120-122).

PSALM 120 / 123	PSALM 121 / 124	PSALM 122 / 125
STUCK LAMENTING in a HOSTILE PLACE	ON THE MOVE with the LORD'S PEOPLE	ENJOYING PEACE in the LORD'S PRESENCE
SUFFERING HURT in a Hostile World	SEEKING HELP in a Hostile World	SAVORING HAPPINESS in a Hostile World
TROUBLING CONFLICT	TRUSTFUL CONFIDENCE	TRIUMPHANT CELEBRATION
The LORD Hears Us	The LORD Helps Us	The LORD'S House Welcomes Us

Overview of the Structure of the Song: The Lament of a Faithful Servant Scorned by a Hostile World

The **FOCUSED LOOK** of a Servant Scorned: *His eyes look up to the LORD for sufficient grace and eventual deliverance.* (vv. 1-2)

The **FERVENT LAMENT** of a Servant Scorned: *His lips long for the LORD to give sufficient grace for he has had his fill of scorn.* (vv. 3-4)

How Does a Hostile World Scorn the LORD's Faithful Servants?

What Is Scornful Contempt?

- Scorn and contempt are often found together in the OT and refers to treating someone with an arrogant hostility that...
 - 1) Involves **facial expressions** where eyes look down with condescension, lips curl up in contempt, and heads wag in cynicism.
 - 2) Involves **verbal expressions** that include ridiculing, scorning, sneering, and mocking.
 - 3) Involves **attitudinal expressions** that are rooted in prideful superiority, personal ease, and spiritual indifference.
- Scornful contempt is...
 - 1) A **condescending** attitude that **LOOKS DOWN ON (rejects)** the faithfulness of God's servants on their journey to joy.
 - 2) A **critical** attitude that **TEARS APART (rips)** the faithfulness of God's servants on their journey to joy.
 - 3) A **cynical** attitude that **POKES FUN AT (ridicules)** the faithfulness of God's servants on their journey to joy.

Scornful contempt is a state of **BEING DESPISED** by **proud people** that leads to **being mocked, taunted, and bullied** for one's **faithfulness to the LORD** in a **hateful** and **hurtful manner!**

The Unbelieving and Unfaithful Will Always Show Scornful Contempt for...

- Faithfully **obeying** God's **WILL** like all those who are right with God. *Psalms 119:2; 31:18; Isaiah 5:24*
- Faithfully **teaching** God's **WORD** like the prophet Jeremiah. *Jeremiah 20:7-8*
- Faithfully **doing** God's **WORK** like the leader Nehemiah. *Nehemiah 2:19; 4:4:1-14*
- Faithfully **pursuing** God's **WORSHIP** like the messengers of King Hezekiah. *2Chronicles 30:12*
- Faithfully **being** God's **WITNESS** like all those who are on the journey to joy! *Hebrews 11:32-39; 2Peter 3:3-13*

Jesus Also Suffered Scornful Contempt from the Unbelieving and the Unfaithful for These Same Reasons! *Psalm 22*

How Does a Faithful Servant Respond to the Scornful Contempt of an Increasingly Hostile World?

1. The POSTURE of a Servant Scorned.

"To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens!" (v. 1)

2. The PATIENCE of a Servant Scorned.

"Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He is gracious to us." (v. 2)

"We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful." James 5:11

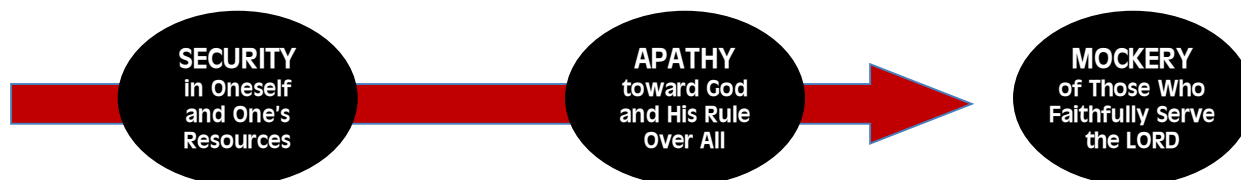
3. The PLEA of a Servant Scorned.

"Be gracious to us, O LORD, be gracious to us, For we are greatly filled with contempt." (v. 3)

4. The PERSEVERANCE of a Servant Scorned.

"Our soul is greatly filled With the scoffing of those who are at ease, And with the contempt of the proud." (v. 4)

Proudly Living at Ease Apart from the LORD Leads to...



So Is There Life After Lamenting? Is There Any Hope for the Scorned Servant?

- Never forget our God is not mocked, for whatever a person sows, they will also **REAP!** *Galatians 6:7*
- Be forewarned God is not mocked, for whoever scorns the redemption and rule of His Son will **SUFFER** their fiery scorn and contempt in eternal judgment! *Daniel 12:1-2*

Psalms 2 – A Royal Warning for Unbelieving and Unfaithful Scoffers

Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing?

The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

"LET US TEAR THEIR FETTERS APART AND CAST AWAY THEIR CORDS FROM US!"

HE WHO SITS IN THE HEAVENS LAUGHS, THE LORD SCOFFS AT THEM.

Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying,

"But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

"I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.

'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth.

WORSHIP THE LORD WITH REVERENCE AND REJOICE WITH TREMBLING.

**DO HOMAGE TO THE SON, THAT HE NOT BECOME ANGRY, AND YOU PERISH IN THE WAY,
FOR HIS WRATH MAY SOON BE KINDLED. HOW BLESSED ARE ALL WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM!**

Application for Going Further Up, Further In

When You Have Had Your Fill of Being Scorned by the Unbelieving for Your Faithfulness to the LORD...

- Check your **POSTURE**: *Am I humbly submitted to the LORD's sovereign and gracious rule over my life?*
- Check your **PATIENCE**: *Am I patiently waiting for the LORD to give me sufficient grace to become what He wants and to do what He wills?*
- Check your **PLEA**: *Am I persistent in asking the LORD to give me sufficient grace to either endure or escape the scorn according to His will?*
- Check your **PERSEVERANCE**: *Am I learning to lament as a divine means of enduring the scornful contempt of the unbelieving and the unfaithful?*