

SERMON NOTES Sunday 18 September

sunnysidechurch

Bible passage: Psalm 113

Introduction

- Sometimes we have a mix of emotions which are all part of what it means for us to be human (cp Pick and Mix)
- We are commanded to praise God however we are feeling

Psalm 113 helps us think about praising God:

1. Who do we praise?

- We praise the name of God (v1)
- God's name tells us about who God is (a definition, not just an identity tag)

2. When do we praise?

- We praise God all day, every day (vv2-3)
- Our praises should not be conditional on our emotions

3. Why do we praise?

- God is on his throne, but he is not distant and pays attention (v5, vv7-9)
- Although God reigns, we still have the poor, needy and barren but they are examples of God's grace
- God is not just great but also gracious

Conclusion

We are commanded to praise God, the great 'I Am' at all times with all our emotions because God is great and gracious to each and every one of us.

Some Questions for Discussion

1. How do you praise God in your life?
2. Read Psalm 113. What strikes you about this psalm?
3. 'Let the name of the Lord be praised' (v2). Which names or characteristics of God do you want to praise today?
4. In the Lord's Prayer we say 'hallowed be your name'. How does this help your understanding of the importance of God's name?
5. How easy do you find it to praise God in hard times?
6. What might help you do this?
7. How might the fact that God is not distant (v6) help us praise God in hard times and when prayers do not seem to be answered?
8. Angela said that God is not just great but also gracious. How might this help you praise him more this week?

God said to Moses, 'I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I am has sent me to you."'

Exodus 3.14

Why not spend some time thanking God for who he is and praising his name? You might like to pray the Lord's Prayer and reflect on how you might hallow God's name this week.

Sermon: Angela Such
Notes: Revd Rebecca Fardell