

Who will ascend?

Introduction

Priorities in 2019

- Based on a prayer meeting recorded
- **Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)** *(1) Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

Together in prayer and worship

- We must spend time... together seeking the Lord
- They were together - and God moved
- We must come together to seek the Lord
- Currently meeting on Wednesday evenings for prayer

Ministry empowered by the Spirit

- From that gathering, the Spirit called Paul and Barnabas into the mission field
- In 2019 - every believer filled / refilled with the Holy Spirit
- In 2019 - every believer used for ministry in the gifts of the Spirit

Active in the great commission

- Outcome of that prayer meeting - Christianity spread among the entire region
- When the Spirit is using us, we will fulfill the great commission
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This Psalm describes the characteristics there of

- One goal - seeking the Lord
- The middle of this Psalm asks and answers the question: "Who will ascend?" -

- that is, what is the person like who will come into the presence of the Lord
- Then answers in the verses between, stating in v6 **Psalm 24:6 (ESV)** (6) *Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.*
Selah
 - But it gives a broader view of what it means to come to the Lord

Message

The Lord reigns over all

Psalm 24:1-2 (ESV) (1) *A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, (2) for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.*

Everything in the world belongs to Him

- This Psalm starts with a declaration of God's sovereignty
- Good reminder today!

Because he created it

- Not a popular theme at the moment - but *In the beginning, God*
- By virtue of His role as creator - all creation belongs to him
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He will be crowned king of kings and Lord of lords

- See Rev 19 *The kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ*
- We don't see it now - he gave us dominion
- We traded it away in the garden
- But one day... every knee will bow
- He is King of kings and Lord of Lords

Right now we can seek him

- So at the moment we wait for his coming, his coronation
- Some will approach him, seek him to know Him now
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Seeking His presence

Psalm 24:3-6 (ESV) (3) *Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?* (4) *He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.* (5) *He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.* (6) *Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah*

They acknowledge there's more

- The Lord owns it all and is everywhere
- But there is more
- See "Hill of the Lord" and "Holy place" from v3
- **Note:** Jesus opened access to this place
- **Point:** There's more!

They resolve to attain

- This is the piece - make up our minds there's more and desire to attain it
- Ascend - effort - walk up, rise above
- How much time have we spent this week seeking the Lord
- I can't give you this "want to", but it needs to drive us

They prepare themselves

Clean hands

- Acts of sin
- We must turn from our sinful ways to ascend

Pure heart

- Thoughts/attitudes
- The Lord sees the heart

No idols

- Not looking to anyone/anything else for my provision
- Not loving anyone or anything else above my Lord

Honest

- Such a lying generation
- Speak the truth in love

- Belt of truth in the armor - ties everything together and allows the sword to attach
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They are blessed

- Per v5 “Blessing from the Lord
- We’ve been studying this
- Soul blessing, material blessing
- Greatest blessing *righteousness from God and salvation*

Throwing open the gates

Psalm 24:7-10 (ESV) (7) *Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. (8) Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! (9) Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. (10) Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah*

Binary state of the gate

- A shift in focus: now gates in the wall
- (From general sense of God’s presence, to seeking more of Him and now gates in a wall)
- There to either open and let in or closed and keep out
- Call at the end of the psalm is to lift the gates

Who is on the other side

- The King of glory
- Mighty, glorious conquering king
- Lord of hosts - king of the army

Application / closing

- Let’s just consider the psalm - God owns everything, now is the time to seek him
- Welcome him in - instead of trying to shut him out
- Who is your king? Does He reign
- Are you open to him, or closed against him