



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Prayer Walk Mall Series, Lesson 21

Lesson Title: Praise Warehouse – Praying with Praise

Take Home Point: Pray with praise – see a BIG God!

Warm-Up:

The story goes that several men were asked to describe an object. The trick, though, was that they were blindfolded. The first man felt the object in front of him and said, "It is a large snake, flexible and curling." The second man said, "No, that cannot be. It is a tree, because I can feel the rough texture of the bark and I can't even put my arms around it." The third man said, "You're both wrong. It is a brick wall, rough and solid." The fourth man objected to his colleagues' opinions, saying, "None of you have it right! It is only a broom!" So what was it? They removed their blindfolds and saw...an elephant! How could they have been so wrong? Because they believed only their own perception of the object. The first man felt only the trunk, the second only a leg, the third only a side, and the fourth only the tail! They needed more than themselves to understand the entire object.

Read: Selected verses from Psalms; Psalms 89:15

Observation (What happened?):

According to Psalm 65, what did God do that deserves our praise?

From Psalm 96, list the different ways we can praise him.

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean to be blessed as we read in Psalm 89:15?

What does it mean to have a big God?

Insight:

Have you ever thought about why God desires our praise? Is he incomplete without it? Does he require it in order to feel better about himself? Of course not! But why is our praise important to him? I believe there are several reasons; here are a few of them. First, we are the height of his creation, given the free will to choose to praise him. We do so out of love for him, just as he created us to love him. This response pleases him. Second, praising God is preparation for heaven. It is the highest and best activity we will get to do in eternity. Third, it is a witness to those around us who do not believe. Fourth, it helps us focus on true reality – the reality of the spiritual world and our eternal nature. We need as many reminders as we can get that this physical world is not all there is. Fifth, our praise to God helps us keep a proper perspective of our place in the universe as created beings – it is an admission that we are in the hands of the Creator who made us and keeps us alive. He is a big God and we should tell him we know it!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How big is your God? How do you show him you recognize how big he is?

Pray for the children in your small group to know the true big God and not succumb to a cultural view that limits him.

Kingdom Quest year 2