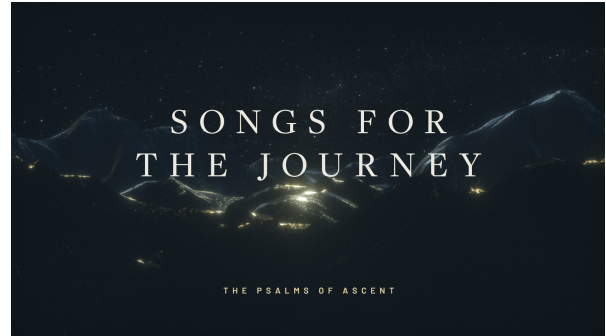


Read: Psalm 123

The central thought of Psalm 123 is so beautifully simple to state: at the end of our tether there's a place called Prayer...It is infinitely easier to moan about our lot, and to commiserate with ourselves—to turn yet again to solutions that the past has proved ineffective. But the little place, the easily unnoticed and avoided place remains; its door is open; and from inside a most loving voice invites, saying, 'come to me and rest.'
- Alec Motyer



Questions:

1. Talk about a time when you experienced trouble or a circumstance where you did not know how you would get through.
2. Discuss anything from Psalm 123 the sermon that caught your attention, challenges or confuses you.
3. *If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest* - Corrie ten Boom. How is prayer, looking to God (v/1), a more effective response to trouble than looking within (self) or out (the world)?
4. Talk about the "posture of prayer" we see in v/2-3 - What comforts you? What is challenging?
Submission - *It is our job to wait, his to act. The place of prayer is the place of submission*
Servant - *waits on his masters time; takes what the master provides; does what the master says*
Strength - *mercy is associated with strength; God gives us strength and wisdom to endure*
5. At the cross, Jesus submitted, served and was strengthened by the Father and Holy Spirit - how does his prayer of "Father forgive them" (Luke 23:34) and declaration that "it is finished" (John 19:30) bring hope to those who trust in Him - no matter the circumstances?

Prayer

What is one thing you want to take away from psalm 123?
What is one thing the group can be praying for you about?