

We Are Never Alone!

Scripture: Psalm 22:22-31 (The Message)

Date: February 26, 2021

Message: *Here's the story I'll tell my friends when they come to worship, and punctuate it with Hallelujahs: Shout Hallelujah, you God-worshippers; give glory, you sons of Jacob; adore him, you daughters of Israel. He has never let you down, never looked the other way when you were being kicked around. He has never wandered off to do his own thing; he has been right there, listening. Here in this great gathering for worship I have discovered this praise-life. And I'll do what I promised right here in front of the God-worshippers. Down-and-outers sit at GOD's table and eat their fill. Everyone on the hunt for God is here, praising him. "Live it up, from head to toe. Don't ever quit!" From the four corners of the earth people are coming to their senses, are running back to GOD. Long-lost families are falling on their faces before him. GOD has taken charge; from now on he has the last word. All the power-mongers are before him — worshipping! All the poor and powerless, too — worshipping! Along with those who never got it together — worshipping! Our children and their children will get in on this as the word is passed along from parent to child. Babies not yet conceived will hear the good news — that God does what he says.*

Psalm 22:22-31

This Psalm of David is a lament in which the Psalmist first pours out his heart and troubles to God. The Psalm starts with this question to God – “God, God my God! Why did you dump me miles from nowhere? The Psalmist, in frustration, then expresses his belief that God did not respond to his pleas for help despite the Psalmist calling out to God day and night.

Have you ever felt like you were dumped miles from nowhere crying out for help and frustrated that God did not seem to be coming to the rescue? The Psalmist reassures us that whether or not we perceive God's presence in the midst of struggles, God is always faithful and is there with us at all times – that God will never let us down or look the other way.

In our frustration and anxiety during difficult times, it's easy to think that we are bearing our burdens by ourselves and that the final outcome depends on our own strength and efforts. The Psalmist reminds us, however, that God has been there all along - that he has not wandered off to do his own thing. The outcome of our trouble is not guaranteed to be easy or painless, but we are guaranteed that God will walk alongside us.

Who needs to be reminded of, or maybe hear for the first time, this reassuring message of God's constant presence and faithfulness? Let's share the good news that we are never alone.

Prayer: *Gracious God. Thank you for your unwavering and constant presence. For that we praise you and punctuate our worship with shouts of Hallelujah! In Jesus' name. Amen.*

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