

The Crescendo of Christ

29 March 2020

Psalm 110 || Alex Watlington

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is your recommendation for finding peace and calm in this time of social distancing?

Worship: Hebrews 2:17-18 (*Read aloud three times, spend time in reflection listening for God's invitation to you.*)

Bible Passage: Read Psalm 110

Sermon Summary

Each of us will encounter significant challenges in this season of fear and isolation. How will we face them? What will we rely on? These are timely questions with Easter fast approaching. No psalm anticipates Easter more than the 110th, offering hope to our fears, purpose for our boredom, and motivation for building community:

Hope to Our Fears (v1) – David offers a vivid look at what the Messiah will be like and what He will do. The central claim is that He will be a conquering King who will come and judge the earth. Our Savior, Jesus fulfilled this promise. But His greatest enemy wasn't an external threat; it was sin and death. By conquering them, He cleansed and healed the world. With all our present fears, we need the comfort and confidence of knowing that our King is present with us – that Jesus is worthy of our trust, a Savior who heals and redeems and pursues His people.

A Word of Comfort (v4) – The Messiah will be both king and high priest to His people. He will stand against the chaos of our world, while also tenderly listening to and caring for us. He's not only able to deal with the problems of the world (as king); He is willing to sacrifice and intercede on our behalf (as priest). This is the comfort we need as weary, isolated Christians: Jesus will never stop loving and pursuing and interceding for us!

A Cause to Rally Around (v6, 3) – How shall we respond to the Messiah? We are called to grow in our relationship and understanding of Him and His tender, personal care for us. And as we know Him more deeply, we are to join Him in His mission. This means that we as a church should be leading the way for healing and justice, modeling what healthy, flourishing communities look like. Our care for our neighbors should be shocking and inexplicable to others as we embrace our mission and this opportunity to be Christ-like priest-kings for our city.

Discussion Questions (*It's better to wrestle deeply with a few good questions than to gloss over many.*)

- What does this Psalm reveal about who Jesus is?
 - How have you experienced Jesus as both a King and a Priest in your life?
 - Read Hebrews 7:23-28. How are you comforted by the thought that Jesus is a one-of-a-kind Priest who always makes intercession for you? (Read about Melchizedek in Genesis 14:17-24.)
 - What does it look like to depend on Jesus during this uncertain and stressful time?
 - In what ways can Christians be Christ-like priest-kings for our city right now?
 - How do you specifically apply this Psalm to your life today?
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What Can We Be Praying For?

Pray for medical professionals, first responders, workers in essential industries.

Engage & Experience

During this time of social distancing, form a habit of contacting one person and praying for three each day. Keep a journal of your prayers to see how they have been answered later.