



Lesson 8: I'll Never Be the Same Again

Dear Fellow Travelers,

Thank you for sharing this journey through the psalms with me. I hope that you have deepened your appreciation for the psalms as vehicles for prayer that you can use no matter where you find yourselves on life's journey. I also hope that you have come to know one another better as you have participated in the group exercises, prayed, and studied together.

I mentioned Easter in last week's letter. As my Wesley colleague, William B. McClain, Professor of Preaching, has proclaimed, Easter is a Christian "extreme makeover," complete with "before" and "after." But please remember that there are those around us who have not yet experienced the "after." They are still living Good Friday. Easter critiques our present. So that our joy does not become a knee-jerk proclamation of victory and triumph, we dare not forget the pain of the pit experience. Thanksgiving psalms like Psalm 30 express the memory of the time of disorientation: "To you, O Lord, I cried... 'be gracious to me'" (vv. 8,10), keeping God's deliverance fresh and keeping us mindful of those who have not yet been delivered.

For those of you who want to continue to study the psalms, I recommend the following resources:

Robert Davidson, *The Vitality of Worship* and J. Clinton McCann, "Psalms," found in *The New Interpreter's Bible*, Vol. IV. These are commentaries treating each of the 150 psalms. McCann's commentary is much more detailed. Davidson gives you a good general overview of each psalm. For those who want to sing the psalms, see Carl Daw and Kevin Hackett, *A Hymn Tune Psalter*, using familiar tunes for each psalm, and Joachim Braun, translated by D. Scott, *Music in Ancient Israel/Palestine: Archaeological, Written, and Comparative Sources*, and J. Philip Newell, *Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter: Morning and Night Prayer*.

If you enjoyed these sessions, I hope you'll consider taking another Wesley Ministry Network course. You'll find information about all of our classes at www.WesleyMinistryNetwork.com.

May the amazing surprise of new life, exemplified in and empowered by Easter, draw us into the new world that God intends for us, a world even now coming into being. How full of wonder that is! Hallelujah!

Denise