

Psalm 123

OVERWHELMED WITH MERCY

A One Bird Blog Psalm Experience
Jordan Williams



ONE BIRD BLOG

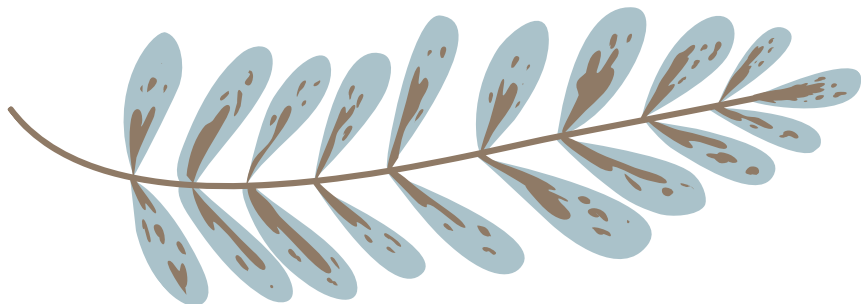
BY JORDAN WILLIAMS

Welcome to the One Bird Blog Psalm Experience. Something like a devotional, something like a quick scripture study.

My hope is that this serves as a companion to your own thoughts and inspires you with beauty and plenty of room for your heart to walk around in.

Included is the ESV translation of Psalm 123, my personal annotations from my own Bible, and a short devotional.

And because I believe poetry can be prayer, you'll also see my recommendations for a poem to read and a song to listen to that complement this particular Psalm.





Psalm 123

OUR EYES LOOK TO THE LORD OUR GOD
A SONG OF ASCENTS

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
- 2 Behold, as the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maidservant
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
till he has mercy upon us.
- 3 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
- 4 Our soul has had more than enough
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.





Psalm 123

OUR EYES LOOK TO THE LORD OUR GOD
A SONG OF ASCENTS

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens! separation.
"lift up" = low stance
"in the heavens" = height
- 2 Behold, as the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maidservant
to the hand of her mistress, > lowly vs. power
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
till he has mercy upon us. look until He has mercy!
- 3 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt. repetition
= desperation
- 4 Our soul has had more than enough
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud. more than enough.
overwhelmed by what is
out of balance.





People like to talk about seasons. How life transitions from the Cave of Adullam to joy for the morning. This is not always very helpful. It leaves out what stress and trauma and uncertainty do to the body. It leaves out how overwhelming it is to watch those who connive, and lie, and cheat, and victimize glide through life without consequence. It leaves out the aftershock of pain when those who try hard get nothing.

I'll unzip my own heart and admit to you a vulnerable truth: I feel stuck. My connection to God is fractured and strange after a year of global death, national unrest, and personal trauma. I'm tired of crying at Him. Praying feels hard, and painful, and exhausting. I don't want to pray about what aches in me anymore. Is this terrible? I don't know.

Am I thankful? Gracious, yes. This is not about thankfulness. This is about everything pent up in me for which there is no place.

I'm weary of asking for relief, blessing, justice. So now the reason I don't receive is my fault? I do not have because I do not ask? (James 4:2) Do I add shame to this abundant load?

When it comes to others, I am not a persistent person. I don't harass people and I don't impose myself. I don't ask and keep asking. I never want to make someone feel obligated. In work, in life, if I put out feelers and no one listens or cares, I harbor whatever it was back into myself. Especially the jewels of my opinion.

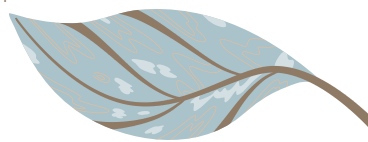
So with God? To keep asking? It's embarrassing. It feels inappropriate and immature, like a child saying "mom, mom, mom..." I've always assumed no answer means no. Stop asking and move on.

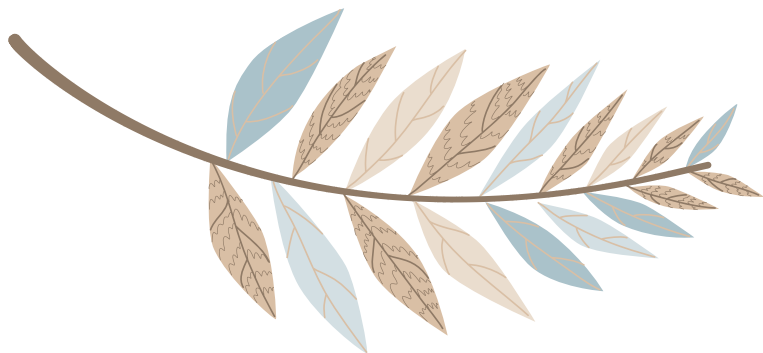
Apparently, God is not this way. But being relentless makes me feel insane and silly. Oh, and it's also painful. I do not want to pray about freedom and provision anymore. I am tired of weeping about wanting to live in my purpose. **I have had more than enough.**

When do things improve? When is breakthrough? When does clarity arrive? When does this disembodied feeling regulate?

These days, I live one day at a time. But, it doesn't feel biblical. It's a survival technique. I do it because a plan implies hope, and everything for the past year has broken and fallen apart and not gone as planned. So, I don't hope a week in advance anymore.

What do I keep asking for and what do I take into my own hands? Am I to be a person of action, or am I to be still and wait on the Lord?



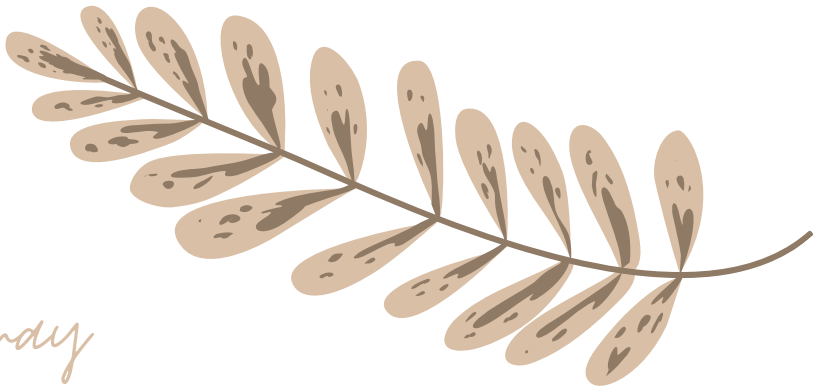


Really we don't need much
just strength to believe
there's honey in the rock
there's more than we see.

These patches of joy
these stretches of sorrow
there's *enough* for today
there will be enough tomorrow.

From "Enough"
Sara Groves





Pray

Lord, here I am. I'm not asking why. I'm not asking when. I'm not asking how. I'm sort of asking what. But what I'm really asking, is if. If anything will resolve. If there is any blessing. If there is anything You dream for me anymore. I know You're there, but this absence of resolution makes me feel forgotten. Can I ask You for a gift? For something lovely. Something beautiful and inspiring. Hope. A little less pain. When I am overwhelmed, help me to rest in Your mercy. **You are enough.**

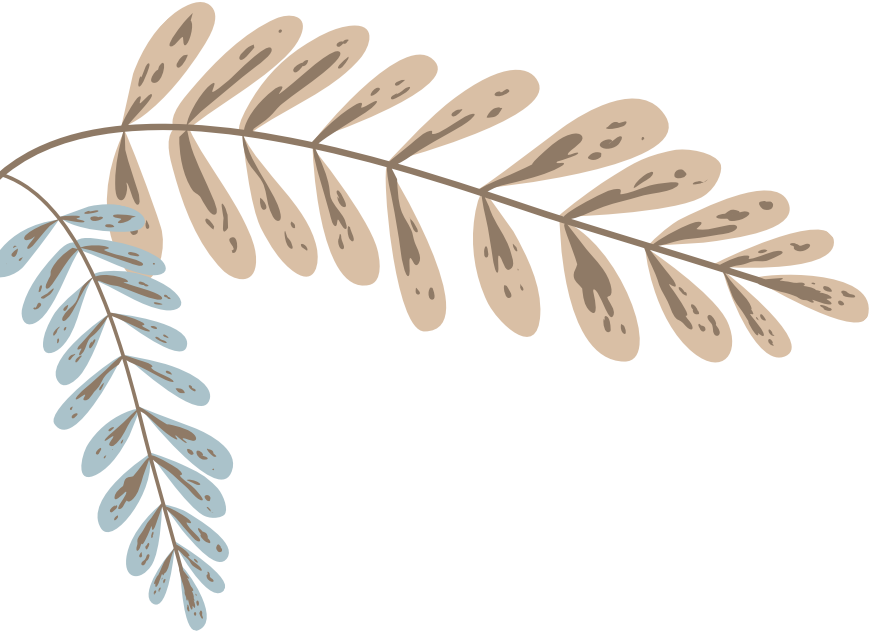
Read

"To Live in the Mercy of God" by Denise Levertov

Listen

"Enough" by Sara Groves





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