

Psalm 44 When God seems to answer no / not yet

Redeemer Church Growth Groups – prayer week 6

Warmup: when the answer seems to be ‘no’ / ‘not yet’.

Have you had the situation where prayers to God have gone seemingly unanswered?

Perhaps for a sought after job, or as a relationship crumbles, or for a family members to believe.

When the answer from God seems to be no, or not yet, or here’s something unexpected instead, we can be tempted to make conclusions about God or about ourselves.

What sort of conclusions might be made about God?

e.g. he’s not generous because we didn’t get what we wanted; or he’s not good; or he doesn’t care for us; or or he’s not really in charge of all things.

What sort of conclusions might be made our ourselves before God?

e.g. I must be out of step; it must be because of that particular sin last Thursday...; maybe I’m not part of his people. Etc.

As we continue to have the Bible train us to grow in prayer, we’re thinking this week about when godly prayers seem to go unanswered. **Psalm 44** is our passage. **Pray and read.**

What is your instinctive response to this Psalm: do you warm to it? Identify with it? Are you surprised by it’s emotion? Does it feel improper to speak like this to God?

As we come to terms with it: How might we summarize each of the four main sections:

V1-8; V9-16; V17-22; V23-26?

Who is saying / singing this Psalm?

The superscription at the start, and the ‘we’ language says it is not a private prayer of a godly individual.

How might we capture the whole Psalm in a sentence?

Does your summary line pick up both the content and the anguished tone?

What does this Psalm train God’s people to do when feeling forgotten or rejected by God?

What makes it hard to do this?

Turn over to Romans. Read ch 8:31-36. Paul cites our Psalm. What point is he making when he quotes Ps 44:22 in Rom 8:36.

How does he answer the situation where God’s people are facing trouble, hardship, danger and the like?

Does casting yourself upon the love of God help solve things?

Pray