

Date: 5 October 2025
Sermon Series: N/A
Sermon Title: Spiritual Readiness
Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 16:16-17
Preacher: Ps Denis Lu

Introduction:

Spiritual readiness should be a way of life for every believer. It should not be something that is only practised before a church camp.

The Songs of Ascent are fifteen psalms that help to prepare the spiritual readiness of the Israelites as they go up to the temple of God (Psalm 120-134). From the Songs of Ascents, we can learn from several themes found in the psalms.

1. Repentance and Forgiveness (Psalm 130:3-4)

We need to admit our sins, but we also need to remember that there is grace.

2. God's Presence (Psalm 131:2)

David felt a closeness to God, like a young child depends on his/her mother's milk. Similarly, we should obtain contentment from God, not from pursuing worldly pleasures.

3. God's Protection (Psalm 121:7-8)

We should ask God to protect our family from physical harm. In today's culture, we should ask for protection from online threats.

4. God's Mercy (Psalm 123:2)

In Numbers 21, the Israelites spoke against God and against Moses. God sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. When the Israelites repented, God had mercy on them, and told Moses to make a snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Jesus explained that just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, He (Jesus) would be lifted up, and that everyone who believes may have eternal life (John 3:14-15). Therefore, we should always keep our gaze fixed on the Lord. Let us remember His mercy toward us.

5. God's Help (Psalm 124:8)

Our God is the Maker of heaven and earth. He is not limited. We should depend on the Lord for help in our circumstances.

6. God's Goodness (Psalm 125:4)

Let us trust the Lord to do good to those who trust in Him.

7. God's Sovereignty (Psalm 132:13-14)

We should pray for God's will to be accomplished in our lives, and the lives of the people around us.

Conclusion:

We do not have to go to Jerusalem to worship the Lord (John 4:21-24). God has given us the opportunity to worship Him wherever we are. Let us be spiritually ready to worship the Lord.

Suggested Discussion Questions:

(Discussion leaders may feel free to adapt the questions to suit their small groups)

1. What are three common themes that you can find in Psalm 120-134?
2. How do large church gatherings make you feel? Explain.
3. How can we increase our spiritual readiness towards God?

DBS/BOBILA Questions

1. What does this passage say about God?
2. What does this passage say about man?
3. Based on this passage, what are you doing well?
4. Based on this passage, how can you improve?
5. With whom/when/where/how can you share this message?

Note: Every LG is free to decide on which set of questions (LGD questions or DBS questions) is to be used for LG discussion.