**Week of February 17, 2019**

**Psalm 66:1-9, 16-20**

1 Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: 2 Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious. 3 Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee. 4 All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah. 5 Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men. 6 He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him. 7 He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah. 8 O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard: 9 Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved. 16 Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. 17 I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: 19 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. 20 Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

 **Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s lesson, the psalmist offers thanks for God’s might deliverance in a time of crisis and invites others to join him in this praise. The psalmist began by summoning all the earth the shout joy to God and cry of adoration. The psalmist proclaimed that God was worthy of praise because of His mighty acts that made His enemies cringe before him. The psalmist was remembering the famous story about God’s rescues of the Israelites by partying the Red Sea. God saved the Israelites and them victory over their enemies. The psalmist declared that God had preserved their lives and kept them form death. The people were thankful for God’s deliverance. Even during times of distress, God was still working for their good.

The psalmist appealed to the worshippers to come and listen to him about what God had done in his life. He indicated that he cried out to God for help and he was calling out to God, he praised Him at the same time. The psalmist explained he was aware of the sin that was in his heart, so he confessed his sine before God. Because the psalmist approached God with a pure hear, God listened to his prayer and answered him. The psalmist praised God and was thankful that He listened to his prayer and continued to love him. Praise is the outcome of God’s deliverance. The psalmist models how believers should search their own hearts before they approach God. Unconfessed sin will prevent God from hearing and homering prayer. But when believers approach God with a pure and sincere heart, He will listen and answer prayer.

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