



Series: *Praying and Living Through the Psalms*

Sermon: Praying from and Living in the story of God

Text: *Colossians 3:16 and Psalm 121*

Preacher: *Gustavo Formenti*

Introductory questions -

The Gospel of Matthew, the most Jewish of all the Gospels, presents Jesus Christ as the prophet greater than Moses, who came to fulfill the Law of God, for the salvation of all who believe in his name, and finally to write the Law of God in the hearts of those saved through his death and resurrection (cf. Jeremiah 31.33-34 and Rom. 2.15).

Matthew organized the teachings of Jesus in 5 blocks, a parallel to the 5 books of the Law in the OT (the Pentateuch), which authorship is attributed to Moses. The teachings of Jesus reveal the Law of God in a fresh and “new” way. Paul picks up that theme and instructs Christians in Colossians 3.16 to “let the word of Christ dwell richly in you” (cf. Psalm 119). He goes on to encourage us to “admonish, and teach” and “to speak to one another with Psalms and spiritual songs” (cf. Ephesians 5.19).

- 1) What does Paul mean by “letting the word of Christ dwell in you”? What is the word of Christ? How does it dwell in us?
- 2) What is the connection between the word of Christ and the verbs of instruction - admonishing, teaching, singing/speaking to one another with Psalms and spiritual songs?

Read Psalm 121 and consider -

- 1) The story in which the Psalmist sees himself.
- 2) The images the Psalmist uses to describe his circumstances.
- 3) The God-driven response to those circumstances.

Reflection questions -

- 1) What are the words that the Psalmist repeats throughout this prayer? What’s the effect intended?
- 2) What images the Psalmist uses to describe his circumstances? What images speak to you?
- 3) How does the Psalmist see the LORD meeting him in his circumstances? What’s the Psalmist response to the LORD?
- 4) How would you respond to those circumstances? What’s the LORD calling you to do in those circumstances?

Prayer -

“ Lord, my life is filled with pressures that are like the sun beating down and draining me of all strength. But I have known times when your smile, sense in prayer, was like cool shade or life a refreshing breeze to my heart. Give me the grace to know you more as my shade and my help. Amen.” Tim Keller, [The Songs of Jesus](#).