

**Sermon Series:** *Praying and Living through the Psalms*

**Sermon:** *Enduring Love*

**Text:** *Psalm 136*

**Preacher:** *Danny Mitchell*

### **Introductory questions -**

To get acquainted with someone, a person can ask others about that individual. Or a person can meet the individual personally and ask appropriate questions. In seeking to know God many Christians study what others say about Him. But a better way to get to know God is to ask Him about Himself. This is exactly what Moses did in Exodus 33:18 when he said, "I pray You, show me Your glory." The answer to Moses' request is given in 34:6-7. This passage is one of the most important theological texts in Scripture, because it is the only place where God actually described Himself, listing His own glorious attributes.

- 1) Read Exodus 34:6-7. Who made the statement in verses 6-7? When a person describes himself, what kinds of facts will he normally mention (the ones important that encompasses who he is)? How does God describe Himself? Do any of these stand out to you?

### **Read Psalm 136 and consider -**

- 1) The call to give thanks to the Lord (vv. 1-3)
- 2) The wonderful deeds of the Lord (vv. 4-9)
- 3) The retelling of Israel's salvation (vv. 10-22)
- 4) The presence of the Lord in the life of his people (vv. 23-26)

### **Reflection questions -**

- 1) Psalm 136 is most likely a responsive hymn. A soloist would have sung the first line of each verse. The congregation would have sung the 2nd line as a response. What's the effect of such repetition?
- 2) How is the Lord described in this Psalm (vv. 1-5)? On what basis the Psalmist declares that God's steadfast love endures forever?
- 3) What deeds does the Psalmist attribute to the Lord (vv.4-9)? How do those deeds demonstrate God's love and care?
- 4) Remembering Israel's deliverance and salvation (Exodus) from Egypt plays a prominent part in this song (vv. 10-15). What are the benefits of "remembering"? What role does "remembering" play in our faith and spiritual growth?
- 5) As you look back in your own story, how do you see the Lord's steadfast love being manifested through different seasons and circumstances?

**Prayer -** *"O God, you have made us, given us our daily bread, and rescued us from many dangers, grant that in all times of deep trouble we may know still that your faithfulness is for ever, and give thanks for your goodness, through him who is your Wisdom and your Word, Jesus Christ our Savior."* John Eaton, The Psalms.