

## Daily Devotional, May 25, 2021 Blessed to be a Blessing

***Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever. Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people, come to my aid when you save them, that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may share in the joy of your nation Save us, Lord our God, and gather us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise. Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!" – Psalm 106:1, 4-5, 47-48***

Do you ever take a moment to play back and appreciate the wonderful blessings of God? We're often conscious of God's blessings, and if we get to ruminating over them, we find that there is much for us to be thankful for. Sometimes those blessings are quite easy to point out, but others take some time for us to sit and think about a bit. We must think about the smaller moments as well as the huge moments. We must rehash the story that we are a part of. We also need to remember that we are written into a much larger story that starts and ends with God. For God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of all things, and we are blessed to be included in that grand story of faith.

The author of Psalm 106 most likely was a Levite, someone who would have kept documentation of the history of the Israelites. This psalm of praise recalls the story of the peoples' rebellion and all the things that God had done for the people of Israel, of how they were once slaves, but how God had redeemed them and after their exile had brought a remnant back home. Throughout the Old Testament, the people of Israel often recount the story of who they are, because they realize that it is a story that is beyond them as individuals. It is instead a story that makes them one people, and one with their God.

In much the same way, as Christians, we become a part of a story in Christ that is far more grand than our individual story of faith. In today's culture, I feel that this can sometimes be a difficult concept to grasp. In a society that emphasizes individuality as a mindset, we are often so focused on the *I* or *me* side of life. And outside of those moments when we focus on those who are closest to us, we rarely come to realize that we are part of a story that is so much more expansive. Many of us tend to think of faith as a personal testimony someone gives, or of a certain something between me and God that is personal and goes unspoken for the most part. At other times, it is a recounting of the blessings we have known from God. But this psalm should remind us that we are a far greater "us" in Christ. In Christ we become part of this great plural.

Being a part of the grander story, the composition of the body of Christ, reminds us that we are a part of a family that is being called out as the psalmist says, "from the nations," for we are a part of God who is working to bring us together as one—as "us". It is for this reason, that we as an all-inclusive, all-encompassing people are able to shout the "**amen**."

Today, I hope you can give thanks to God for the salvation God has brought you, but better, give thanks that you have been called together to be part of the family of God, for the glory of God from everlasting to everlasting. In this family we shall shout our praise to God, and join the grand, *Amen*.

***Prayer: Gracious God, grant us the patience to work together, with understanding and compassion in our hearts. Let us not be rude or arrogant towards one another, as we light the way to your heavenly kingdom. For we know that to this we have been called, that we may ourselves inherit blessings from You, obtaining blessings as heirs, and bringing welfare and joy and protection to all. In Jesus' most holy and precious name, AMEN!***