

Reflection

Reflection on Psalm 107

The psalmist says, "Give thanks to the Lord; his steadfast love endures forever." The psalm calls on the Lord's elect to give thanks to him for all of his interventions in their lives, particularly at times of hardship and peril.

The psalmist provides instances of God's compassion for sick people, travelers, and prisoners. One of the tragedies of this life that allows us to experience God's goodness in healing us is physical illness. Thus, and for good reason, the psalmist entreats his readers to thank God. God's people are encouraged to proclaim their redemption in the psalm. And to remain silent about such a magnificent achievement would be unappreciative and wrong. In other words, the group's experience shouldn't be lamented; rather, it should be seen as an encounter with the all-powerful, wonder-working God, as the psalmist describes in these passages.

We might not actually be lost in a desert wasteland, compelled to live in complete darkness, ill to the point of death or caught up in a violent storm of life, but we have all experienced or will experience those moments when we are in desperate need of God's redemptive intervention. Thus, Psalm 107 offers guidance on how to get through those trying times: Acknowledge your predicament, cry out to God, tell Him what you need, accept his helping hand, and then thank God.