

Monday, 2 August 2021 – Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

In the New Living Translation of the Bible (NLT), Psalms 120-134 are each classified with the following heading: "A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem." Psalm 122 even makes further reference to these pilgrims, "All the tribes of Israel - the Lord's people - make their pilgrimage here. They come to give thanks to the name of the Lord, as the law requires of Israel" (Psalm 122:4, NLT).

When it comes to the practice of pilgrimage, place is important. And generally, people make pilgrimages to many places for many reasons: some want to get to the Grand Ole Opry or Dollywood or one of the Halls of Fame for sporting, others make a point of making a family trip to Disney, others still go to a European or African country to trace their family trees. Place is important; it is able to inspire and focus our vision along the journey, even when it is still in the early planning stages.

This was doubly true for the faithful making their pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The city lies atop several hills, and even when the city itself is not visible from miles away, the hilltops are - you can literally fix your eyes upon the goal as your path "ascends to Jerusalem." But as important as place is for the pilgrim, even more important is the attitude of the journey. Again, as Psalms 122 spells out above, it is done "to give thanks to the name of the Lord." Each of the Psalms 120-134 offers encouragement, reminder, insight, and focus to the pilgrim along the journey, but none more so than remembering to do this for the right reason and with the right attitude.

We are pilgrims through this life, and while the place we may be journeying to is the Kingdom of God, we are reminded that we are to journey through life with the appropriate attitude, and with the appropriate view of one another, fellow pilgrims on the road.

Prayer: Lord, grant me a pilgrim attitude this day as I journey toward your kingdom, and toward your presence. May I be a positive companion for others on this road, as well. Amen.