

still waters

home church studies

## Psalms 100

[Worship]

1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

### Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Peter B. Price

Anxiety and fear faced persecuted Christian communities in the Roman Empire. Matthew recalled Jesus' words, "Take care that no one deceives you....see that you are not alarmed" (Matthew 24:4, 6). Easily said, but when the Temple, the holy place (24:15), the place of God's presence, is being desecrated and destroyed—where is God now? And if refugee status is about to be conferred on you and your loved ones (24:17-22), the temptation is to go with those who appear to know not only where God is but are even able to reveal who Christ is (24:4-7, 23-28).

Matthew has a steady and teaching job to do. First, the communities need to be reminded that Jesus' presence and activity are not limited to cataclysmic events (24:6-11) or specific locations (24:23-24, 26). Nor must they be fearful of empty places, "for he has risen" (28:6).

Second, they must return to their gospel roots. God has always been with God's people, men and women, through thick and thin—just look at the list (Matthew 1:1)! But God is to be found most among the least (Matthew 25:45), and that's where Jesus said those "whom my Father has blessed" (25:34) will be found.

[Scripture]

## Matthew 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

