

still waters

home church studies

Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9

[Worship]

1 My heart overflows with a goodly theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe. 2 You are the most handsome of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.

6 Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity; 7 you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; 8 your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad; 9 daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Consider:

[Words]

"God's saving justice is never served by human anger" (James 1.20). This text should be inscribed on the hearts of all who seek for peace and justice in our world. True religion should be marked by an eagerness to listen, a slowness to speak, and a tight rein on the tongue. There is no room for lip service or human traditions that are used to avoid dealing with the real evil intentions that are found in the human heart (Mark 7.21-23).

In essence God's saving justice is marked by simplicity of faith and expressed by helping widows and orphans in their hardships and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world



(James 1.27). The word for world here is better translated as "systems," the powers and principalities (Ephesians 6.12) that impede both the saving justice of God and the springtime of hope, poetically described in Song of Songs as an awakening of love. May our prayer and our desire be that the seasons of glad songs will come (Song of Songs 2.12).

Reflection and Action

What are you doing to welcome the seasons of glad songs?

[Scripture]

James 1.17-27

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. 19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing. 26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.