Psalm 8

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read Psalm 8

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name

in all the earth,

Who have displayed Your splendor

above the heavens!

**2**From the mouth

of infants

and nursing babes

You have established strength

Because of Your adversaries,  
To make the enemy

and the revengeful cease.

**3**When I consider Your heavens,

the work of Your fingers,  
The moon and the stars,

which You have ordained;

**4**What is man that You take thought of him,

And the son of man that You care for him?

**5**Yet You have made him a little lower than God,  
And You crown him

with glory

and majesty!  
**6**You make him to rule

over the works

of Your hands;  
You have put all things

under his feet,

**7**All sheep and oxen,  
And also the beasts of the field,  
**8**The birds of the heavens

and the fish of the sea,  
Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

**9**O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name

in all the earth!

1. How does the psalm begin and end? What is the significance of this repetition?
2. What is the significance of saying that God’s “name” is majestic? Why not just say he is majestic?
3. List out the contrasts between man and God in this passage.
4. With whom does God establish his strength?
5. How does this passage speak to the value of human life?
6. How does verse two humble the proud who think of themselves as powerful? Consider also 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.
7. Read Matthew 21:12-17. How is Jesus using this quotation from Psalm 8 in this context? Why quote it in Matthew 21?
8. Why does God establish his strength according to the text?

* Day 2

Read Psalm 8 again.

1. How many times does this psalm refer to God either by name or reference (count pronouns like you/your as well).
2. How does the creation described in verse 3-4 speak to the smallness of man and the bigness of God?
3. How does verse 4 relate to verse 3?
4. Read Genesis 1:26 how does this inform verses 6-8 of Psalm 8?
5. Why are verses 7-8 added if the end of verse 6 already said “all things?”
6. Who is the “him” referring to in verse 5? Explain.
7. What is meant by the phrase “a little lower than God?”

* Day 3

Read Psalm 8 again.

1. Who is central to verses 1 and 9? What names are used for him?
2. Read Hebrews 2:7-9, 1 Corinthians 15:27, Ephesians 1:22-23. Consider their context. How are these passages informed by/related to themes in Psalm 8?
3. How is the return to the same phrase that opened the Psalm in the concluding verse provide new clarity to its meaning?
4. How is human significance related to the majesty of God? Why are these placed together in this psalm?
5. Who wrote this psalm? Why might this be significant given the content of the psalm?
6. Summarize this passage in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray for the majesty of God to be big in your mind and heart so that you would be led to rightly understand and apply the value of humanity. Pray for the lost who incorrectly value human dignity to come to know the majesty of our God through the gospel of Jesus.