Are You Glad To Be In The Service?

Psalms 122:1

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.*

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n the onset of this Psalm the people of God have been contemplating of returning to Jerusalem to revisit what they've missed while in exile. For most Israelites, the journey to Jerusalem was the longest one they would ever make. The city is in the south of the country, and pilgrims coming from the north were often traveling more than one hundred miles to get there. While that doesn’t seem distant to us, if we were walking the whole way up massive majestic hills, with our spouses, kids, and other family members we might feel differently about that particular situation!

This trip to Jerusalem was a long and tiring journey. They had a desire no matter what to get to the house of worship. Yes it was not only a benefit to get there but also exhausting! But now it’s behind them, for the people of God have just stepped into Jerusalem. It’s a good day when someone tells you, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

I would like to pose a question! Have you ever experienced the desire to arrive at your destination ? You’ve saved for that trip, you’ve perused pictures of the destination, you’ve talked it up for months with your children and there is great anticipation. There is a abundance of excitement and expectation and then when you finally arrive, it’s a disappointment. You spend your time there wishing you were somewhere else: the accommodations aren’t acceptable, the attractions aren’t appealing, and the weather is dreadful. Your trip anticipation has turned to a trip of disappointment and regret.

Well, for the Old Covenant believer, there was no trip remorse upon entering Jerusalem. It was everything they had anticipated and more. The believers knew that Jerusalem is where all authentic worship happened. Although God is everywhere, this is where His presence is especially manifested to His people.

The temple was here, the sacrifices were offered here and Levitical priests did their work here. In fact, during a worship festival like the Passover, the city’s population was enormous. This was the place to be! Not because of all the people; not because of all the excitement; but because this was the one place on earth where God’s people would gather in a place dedicated to worship God.

1. **The Objectives of the Church:**

What is the true meaning of the church? The church is both universal and local. Universal in that it includes all Christians in all places at all times – past, present, and future. It is local in that God’s church includes Christians who come together in local assemblies to carry out His work. Our church is but one local expression of God’s universal church. It’s best to think of the church as a living organism rather than a cold lifeless institution. The church is not buildings or even great programs, it’s people!

When we gather, we ourselves are a building dedicated to the worship of God. This is a place where His Word will be read and His presence will be enjoyed. He will be made much of in the preaching and teaching and singing. And sitting beside us, our children will learn of God’s grace and glory as we profess God’s infinite value and worth.