



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2023

BIBLE LESSON:

PSALM 43

MATT. 23:1-12

Send Out Your Light and Your Truth Psalm 43

Some interpretations put Psalm 42 and 43 together. Many manuscripts present them as one text and they both seem to have the same style and theme.

Fun fact: Chapter divisions were not a part of God giving us His word but were added to scripture by Christians in the 1300s.

The theme of Psalm 43 is both a longing to be brought back into communion with God by being in His temple, and for deliverance through God's judgement from those who are against His people.

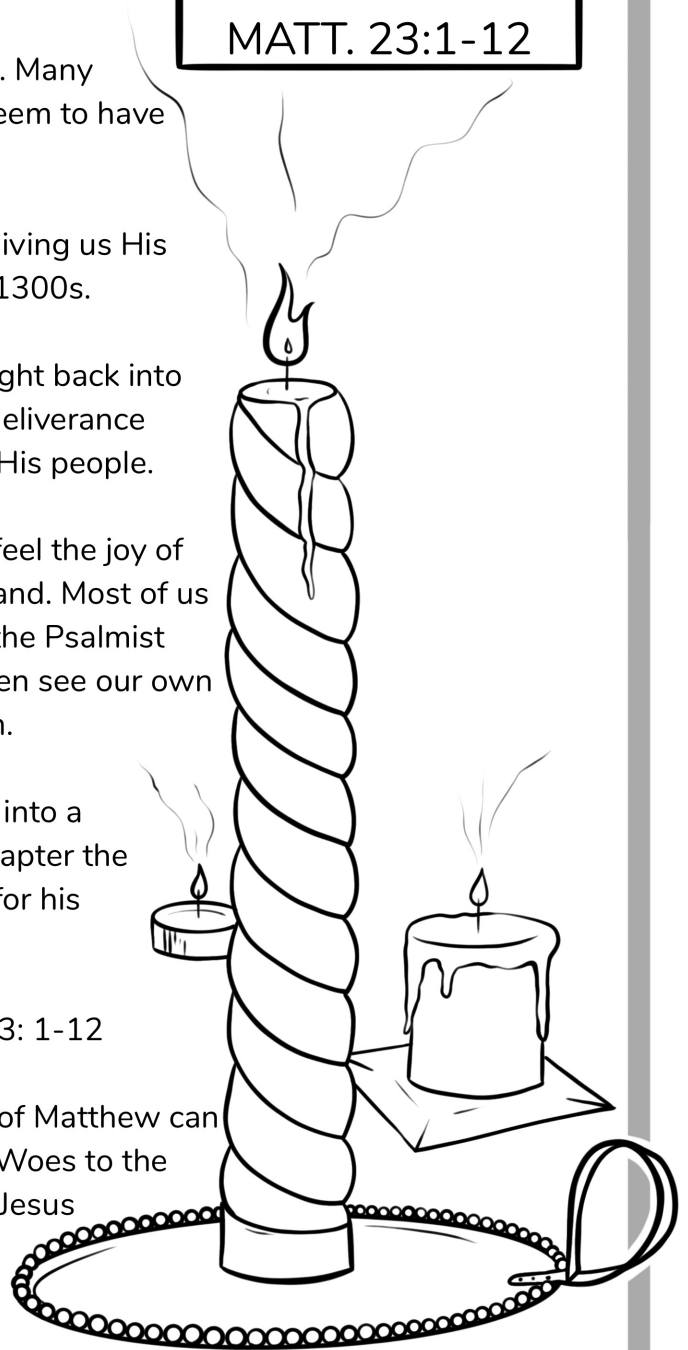
In verse 4 the words depict such a strong desire to feel the joy of being in the Holy Place that it is hard for us to understand. Most of us have the freedom and are able to worship weekly but the Psalmist uses poetic imagery that makes it possible for us to even see our own difficulties and challenges in the language of the Psalm.

In verse 5, the words move from pleading with God into a conversation with the soul. In the conclusion of this Chapter the Psalmist seems to be reminding himself of the reason for his hope, and as he becomes aware, he returns to praise.

Seven Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees Matthew 23: 1-12

The emphasis we place when reading this Chapter of Matthew can get mixed up if we aren't careful. The heading "Seven Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees" sounds like criticism and while Jesus has the right to judge, He is using the example of the Pharisees to warn His disciples (and us) against hypocrisy.

In verse 3 he points out that the Pharisees are correctly interpreting and upholding God's word, but their actions toward and seen by others are not to be imitated. In verse 5 He refers to how they are following Old Testament laws and mentions the tassels on their robes which are talked about in Numbers 15: 38-39. The Pharisees are correctly following the Old Testament rules, but





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(Continued)



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they make the tassels extra long, so people are sure to see them, rather than remember God's commandments and to follow Him.

In verse 12 when Jesus says "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted," He reminds us of the promises made during the Sermon on the Mount in the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5: 2-12.



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for loving us enough to warn us when we are focusing on the wrong things. Please, O Holy Spirit, help us stay on track and humbly love our neighbours. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Notes: