Let The Redeemed of the Lord Say So! Psalm 107:1–2, 4–32, 43

Autumn in the Psalms

Every Person in Our Congregation Has a Story. Some chapters are filled with laughter, thanksgiving and wonderful memories. Other chapters are harder to read.

Yet when we stop and look back, how often we discover that the Lord was at work even when we could not see His hand.

Perhaps He didn't lead us by the road we would have chosen, or answer in the way we expected. **But through it all He didn't cease to be faithful.**

Psalm 107 opens with a magnificent invitation: *"give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endures forever."* Then comes the command that gives our message its title: *"Let the redeemed of the LORD say so*."

When Psalm 107 tells us, "*Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,"* it's giving us a gentle but firm push to speak up for the Lord. **Think about how we act when something amazing happens in our everyday lives.**

If we get good news about our kids, our job. or health, we don't keep it a secret. We text your friends, we tell our family, we talk about it at the kitchen table

So why are we often so quiet about what God has done for us?

If you have known the goodness of God in your life, don't keep it to yourself. **Remember it. Thank Him for it. Tell somebody about it**.

This Psalm is inviting us to recognize the faithful God who met His people in the middle of their real need.

Four scenes unfold before us: people lost in a wilderness, prisoners sitting in darkness, people suffering through their own foolishness, and sailors caught in a violent storm. Different people, different problems, but the same merciful Lord.

Four times we hear the same pattern: they're in trouble; they cry to the Lord; He acts in mercy; and then hearts are lifted in joyful praise to God.

The Psalmist repeats it because he doesn't want us to miss the point. **The faithfulness of God deserves to be remembered and praised.**

He doesn't merely want us to admire a happy ending. **He wants us to recognize the amazing God behind it**, and over and over, we hear the word, **Wonderful**.

That's why His people are exhorted to say, *"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, for His wonderful works to the children of men."*

Listen for that refrain as we travel through the Psalm looking at the four pictures. **Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so.**

1. God Is Faithful When We Lose Our Way Verses 4–9

The first picture is of wanderers in a wilderness. They can't find a city in which to live. They're hungry, thirsty and weary. Their soul faints within them.

Imagine walking across a wilderness landscape with no signposts, no welcoming lights in the distance, and no assurance that the next turn will bring you nearer home.

Life at times brings us different kinds of wilderness. Some are geographical, but others are found in the heart. A person can have a house, a job, a family and a full calendar and still feel strangely directionless.

A young person wonders what to do with life. A parent faces decisions that seem too large. Someone entering retirement discovers that a familiar routine has disappeared. Someone grieving a loved one wonders how to begin again.

The Psalm doesn't say the wanderers worked everything out for themselves.

Rather, verse 6 says, *"Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble*."

And verse 7 tells us, *"He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place."*

Do you notice that? The Lord didn't merely point toward the road. **He led them along it.** His faithfulness was not only seen at the destination but in His guidance on the journey.

Looking back, many of us can remember decisions that seemed bewildering at the time. We prayed, sought counsel, opened God's Word and took the next step we knew to take.

Only later did we begin to recognize how graciously the Lord had led us, and we testified to the truth of Psalm 107, using that word in praise, "wonderful."

"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalm 107:8

What a wonderful God! He doesn't leave His people without direction.

He sees their need, hears their cry, and faithfully leads them. We praise Him not only for the road He opens, but for the patient love of the One who walks with us.

2. God Is Faithful When We Need Deliverance Verses 10–16

The second scene is darker. It paints an image of people sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and iron. The Psalm tells us why: they had rebelled against the words of God and despised His counsel.

Yet what is remarkable is that their rebellion has not exhausted the mercy of God.

When they cry to Him, He brings them out of darkness and breaks their bands apart. **Verse 16 says,**

"*For he has broken the gates of brass and cut the bars of iron in two.*"

Feel the power of those words. Gates and bars speak to us of things that appear immovable. The people could not free themselves, **but the Lord could do what they could not do.**

Not everyone today is confined behind literal prison bars.

Some live behind bars of bitterness, guilt, fear or long-nursed resentment. **Others are held fast by patterns of behaviour they know are destructive.**

And some carry a burden of shame because of something that happened years ago.

We should be careful here. Not every emotional struggle we go through is the result of rebellion, and not every person in distress needs to be told to try harder.

But where sin has entangled us, Scripture calls us to turn honestly to the Lord.

Thank God the gospel speaks of a Saviour who came to proclaim liberty to the captives. Jesus does not make light of sin. He bore our sin at the cross so that forgiveness and new life might be ours through faith in Him.

Some of the sweetest testimonies in a church come from people who can say, "I know what I was, and I know what the Lord has done for me."

If the Lord has forgiven us, if He has brought us out of darkness and into the light of Christ, **then surely we have reason to say - Let the Redeemed of say so.**

What a wonderful God!

The bars that seem so immovable to us are not too strong for Him. That is why we can say, "*Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, for his wonderful works to the children of men!*" **107:15**

3. God Is Faithful Even When We Fail Him Verses 17–22

Verse 17 speaks of folks caught in circumstances beyond their control.

It speaks of foolish choices, and how those choices brought painful consequences.

We all know something about that. We've said things we wish we could take back. We've made decisions and ignored good counsel that cost us dearly.

Our Bible is transparently honest about people. It shows us godly men who were not beyond failure. The Scriptures don't airbrush their stories.

In its setting, this Psalm celebrates genuine deliverance from consequences like the prodigal, who was living far from his father's house in "the far country."

But we can rejoice in the greater truth it reveals:

God is merciful to those who turn to Him, even when they have contributed to their own trouble. **There is a beautiful gospel echo here**. A loving HeavenlyFather.

In my own life, not all the choices I made were good. The devil often reminds me of them.

Thank God we can bring our repentance and our regrets to Him. His forgiveness allows us to begin again in humble obedience.

And what does the Psalmist ask of those who have known such mercy?

Verse 22 says, "*And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing*." Not simply to feel thankful, but to declare, **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!**

What a wonderful God! His mercy is greater than our mistakes.

4. God Is Faithful Through the Storms of Life — Verses 23–32

Now the Psalmist takes us from the wilderness and the prison and the far country out onto the turbulent sea. This final picture has a particular meaning for Wyn and me, as we both grew up beside Belfast Lough.

As children, we often watched the ships travelling along the Lough. Some were heading out toward the open sea, while others were making their way to Belfast harbour.

Wyn's home looked right out on to Carrickfergus Harbour where the coal boats unloaded, and the pilot boats would head out to meet large ships and guide them into Belfast harbour. My brothers and I often fished at the end of the coal quay.

One memory in particular has remained with me. I was at the harbour during a thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning struck a coal boat that was anchored in the harbour.

What makes that memory so striking is that the boat was not far out at sea, fighting its way in a storm toward shelter. It was already in the harbour. Safely anchored, and yet the storm still reached it.

Isn't that a picture worth remembering?

We can belong to the Lord, be anchored in His promises, and still face sudden storms. L**ightning can strike even in the harbour**.

The veteran sailors in Psalm 107 knew the sea well. Yet the storm mentioned in this Psalm was greater than the skills of these ancient mariners.

The waters rose, the tempest raged, their courage failed, certain death seemed imminent, and verse 27 says they were "*at their wits' end.*"

That's an expression many still use today after they've tried everything they know.

We know only too well how storms can arrive without warning: It's in those moments we discover that all our experience, and our own strength are not enough. **Then comes the refrain for the fourth time***:*

"they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he brings them out of their distresses."

The Psalmist continues: *"He makes the storm a calm, so that the waves are still. Then are they glad because they are quiet; and he guides them to their desired haven."*

What striking words these are: "their desired haven." a place of safety.

The sailors had known the terror of the storm, and now they had reason to praise the Lord who had brought them through.

Those words turn our thoughts to the Sea of Galilee, where the disciples in their small boat cried out in fear and Jesus rose to rebuke the wind and the waves and there was a great calm.

The One who commanded the storm to cease was no ordinary person. For no water can swallow the ship where lies the Master of ocean, and earth, and skies.

Not for a moment am I suggesting that every storm will end by tomorrow morning. **Sometimes God removes the difficulty.** Sometimes He gives us strength and grace to endure it.

His faithfulness is not measured by how quickly the weather changes. It's revealed in His unfailing character and in His promise never to forsake His people.

I think again of that coal boat in Carrickfergus Harbour. The storm reached it even there. And perhaps that is the word someone needs today: you may be in a storm, but the storm doesn't mean God has forgotten you.

You can cry to Him. You can rest in His care. You can trust His faithfulness even when you cannot yet see the haven.

These sailors didn't praise the Lord because they had never known a storm. They praised Him because they had experienced His mercy in the midst of it.

"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" **Psalm 107:31**

What a wonderful God!

He is Lord over the wind and the waves, yet He's attentive to fearful people who cry to Him. Whether He stills the storm or sustains us through it, His steadfast love remains worthy of praise.

Why Should We Praise Him?

Four times the Psalmist has called us to praise the Lord for His goodness and His wonderful works to the children of men.

Why should we praise Him? Surely it's much more than the fact that He has helped people out of trouble.

It's what those wonderful works reveal about the God we worship.

We don't praise Him because life has always been easy, because every prayer was answered as we expected, or because we have never known grief.

We praise Him because He is good, and His mercy endures forever. **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!**

Conclusion: We come back to where the Psalm began: *"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so."*

Think of the four pictures we have seen. The wanderers could say, "He led us." The prisoners could say, "He set us free."

Those who had acted foolishly could say, "He showed us mercy." And the sailors could say, "He brought us through."

Different stories, but the same faithful God.

What about your story? When you look back over the years, can you remember a time when the Lord guided you? A burden He helped you carry? A sin He forgave? A season in which His grace was sufficient, even though the road was hard?

For those who are in or facing a storm; I pray the quiet waters will soon reach you.

Take courage. The God who has been faithful in the past has not changed. Bring your trouble to Him. Trust the Saviour who gave Himself for you and rose again.

There's an even greater reason for thanksgiving than any earthly rescue. Through Jesus, God has provided redemption from sin and the hope of eternal life. **God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us.**

The Psalm ends with these words*: "Whoever is wise, will observe these things, and they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD"* (verse 43).

Wisdom looks back and sees more than a collection of fortunate escapes. **Wisdom recognizes the steadfast love of God.**

When we remember His leading, His forgiveness, His sustaining grace and His saving love, surely we have something worth telling.

Let's not be silent about His goodness. Let's give Him the glory. Let's thank Him for what He has done and trust Him for what is yet to come.

Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So!