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A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion



Starter Question

- ❶ From Sunday's sermon, what did you **like best**, or what **caught your attention most**—and **why**?


Observation—What do I see?

- ❷
- Reading Psalm 8, what do you observe about each of the actors mentioned? Specifically, about:
 - ♦ God? (v. 1, 9)
 - ♦ The vulnerable and the vicious ("infants" and "enemies")? (v. 2)
 - ♦ Stars and planets vs. people—their apparent contrast? (v. 3-4)
 - their real relationship? (v. 5-8)
- ❸ Review the definitions of "**sovereignty**" and "**dominion**" (see the **Sermon Summary**). Then, look up the words "control" and "responsibility" at dictionary.com. What do you learn? Is "control" more associated with sovereignty or with dominion? How about "responsibility"? Which of these functions—control or responsibility—belongs to the superior? Which to the inferior?

Interpretation—What does it mean?

- ❹ Do you tend to marvel more at bald eagles and blue whales than you do at people? Should you?
- ❺ What conclusion is reasonable to draw from the following two websites?  **and** 
- ❻ What do you think explains these inverted values?

Application—What do I do with this?

- ❼ To what degree do you share those inverted values? 
What evidence could you give for rating yourself thus?
- ❽ Repetition is a means of emphasis, and Psalm 8 **begins and ends** with the majesty of God over **all** creation. What is the functional connection between worship and obedience?
- ❾ **How often** do you **intentionally** meditate on the majesty of God and the responsibilities he's given you?

❶ This is just a starter question. Enjoy it, but don't spend too much time on it.

❷ **Observations about:**

God:

- is majestic over all creation, and openly displays his splendor (v. 1, 9)

The vulnerable and the vicious:

- God uses weak, but godly, people (aka "infants/babes") to shame and conquer those humans and demons who oppose him (aka "adversaries/enemies/revengeful") (v. 2)

Stars and planets vs. people:

- people **appear** absolutely insignificant in comparison (v. 3-4)
- people **actually are** God's vice-regents and are far superior to all other creation (v. 5-8)

- ❸
- "Control" means "to exercise restraint or direction over someone/something; to command"
 - "Responsibility" means to be held answerable/accountable (to one's superior) for something that he has delegated to your control or management.
 - Control is associated with sovereignty; responsibility is associated with dominion.
 - Control belongs to the superior; responsibility belongs to the inferior.

- ❹ Clarify that we're talking about **categories**—sub-human creation ("bald eagles/blue whales" vs people)—rather than about **individuals** (yes, we often marvel at **exceptional examples** of humans, such as LeBron James and Alicia Vikander). The question is: "What do you more often find praiseworthy: sub-human creation (sunsets, dolphins, etc.) or average, 'run-of-the-mill' humans?"

No, compared to humans, we must not be more intrigued with or impressed by even super novae.

"When we consider God's heavens, what are people?"

Yet God made people at little lower than himself, and crowned us with glory and majesty!

God made people to rule over the works of his hands and has put all things under our feet." Psalm 8

- ❺ Our society values bald eagles more than it does human babies.

- ❻ The only thing which can explain these inverted values is Satanic deception. Those who value bald eagles over human babies would say that **both** are animals, and so their own worldview should lead to the conclusion that both have the same value. Animals are animals. They don't think it's OK to protect puppies but drown kittens. Whatever **intrinsic** value one has, so does the other. (One may have greater **utilitarian** value than another—a cow that gives ten gallons of milk per day is of greater utilitarian value than one which gives only five—but that doesn't make it OK to torment unproductive cows.)

- ❼ Lead in honesty on this question.

- ❽ We **must** worship and obey the God whose majesty far out-strips all of creation put together.

- ❾ Lead in honesty on this question.

Sermon Outline Psalm 8

In a world full of noise and distraction, with everything vying for our attention and allegiance, foundations are being shaken. Two words establish a needed reset: Sovereignty and Dominion. One who has **sovereignty** has complete control to establish truth, life, and laws. One who has **dominion** has received this dominion from the Sovereign; he is responsible to maintain and protect truth, life, and law. Psalm 8 was written by David “on the gittith,” ie from Gath, a Philistine territory. This is a song to be sung in a group on an instrument from Gath. It is a song full of joy. Put yourself in David’s sandals: you were called from watching sheep and anointed as king by the most revered man in Israel. You spend your next 15 years on a roller coaster, one minute thinking you’ve earned the favor of the king, and the next dodging his spear and his army. Then the king dies in battle; civil intrigue has settled; and now everyone comes to bow down in submission to you. “God keeps no one waiting unless He sees that it is good for him to wait.” (CS Lewis) God used those 15 years to establish a leader who would submit to Him, and now David breaks out into song. **What do we learn about God from Psalm 8?**

- **God Protects** Yahweh was the covenant name God had given, so that whenever people called upon Him, they would recognize Him as the one who would care for and protect them.
- **God is Personal and Presides Over Us** Psalm 8 is a messianic psalm, describing the Messiah’s rule on earth: “How majestic IS your name in ALL the earth.” When David wrote this, there were still problems; the Messiah had not yet come. In our day there are still problems, but the Messiah HAS come.

In v. 2, David recognizes the paradoxical nature of God. God uses weak things to confound the strong, in order to display His unequaled power. Paul explains why, “so that no one may boast before God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18-28). Jesus claimed Psalm 8 for Himself after being attacked by angry religious leaders (Matthew 21:16). Compare what Jesus says there to Psalm 8:2—“for yourself”. Jesus is claiming the title of God here, the same as the covenant God—but with flesh. Jesus is the exact representation (image) of the invisible God. Jesus was also saying those religious leaders were His adversaries, the vengeful. We are still waiting for the enemies and vengeful to cease when He comes someday in power and glory. When He does come in power to establish His kingdom, who will be with Him? Jesus tells us: the weak, those who trust like children (Matthew 19:14).

Then David reviews the splendor and power of God, who created the universe with His fingers (“by the breath of his mouth”—Psalm 33:6). David asks a question in Psalm 8:4, “What is man?” The moon and the stars obey You, but man doesn’t. In Psalm 144:4, David directly answers this question: “Man is like a mere breath; His days are like a passing shadow.” Compared to God and all of His Sovereign glory, we’re not as great as we would like to think.

The question is, **who is really in control?** God is the Sovereign, the supreme ruler of all creation, because He is the creator. God establishes the laws we live by. As supreme ruler of all creation, He gives man dominion. “God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” (Genesis 1:28). This is what it means to be His image bearers: we represent Him through our care of His creation. We make decisions about life based on what obeys and honors God. As Christians, we are ordained by God to protect the truth that God established.

In Psalm 8, David is incredulous that God would continue to lavish man with so much care in light of man’s disobedience. Man’s heart is continually evil, but God didn’t revoke our dominion. He is patient, slow to anger, full of loving kindness. In spite of the Fall, we still get to represent Him over creation.

In verses 5-8, there are two things we must not miss:

1. David wrote this psalm about man, but Hebrews elevates this to mean the Son of man, Jesus
2. God will someday restore the earth to pre-Fall conditions of perfect dominion (v. 6).

At that time His name WILL be excellent.

“You cannot worship God and treat His supreme creation with contempt.” (John Piper)

Treating creation with contempt is to say to God, “You don’t know what You’re doing. I can do better.”

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

Psalm 8 is quoted in multiple places in the Old and New Testaments.
Let's take a look at them and discover their important insights...

Monday— Psalm 144:1-8. Arrogant, rebellious men are no match for God!

Tuesday— Job 7:11-19. A suffering man begs God to overlook him!

Wednesday— Matthew 21:14-16. Jesus claims to be the Lord, Yahweh! (see Psalm 8:1-2)

Thursday— Hebrews 2:5-8. Jesus placed himself way above mere angels!

Friday— 1 Corinthians 15:20-27. The God-man, Jesus Christ, conquers our final enemy!

Saturday— Ephesians 1:18-23. Open your eyes to your glorious future—all thanks to our Head!

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]