



Big Idea: In times of CONTEMPT, look to God for APPROVAL.
Job 12:5; John 15:19-20; 1 Corinthians 1:28; Hebrews 1:28

1. **Focus on the right** _____ – look to God in Heaven
2 Kings 19:14-16

2. **Focus on the right** _____ – look for the hand of God

3. **Focus on the right** _____ – look for mercy from God
Hebrews 4:16; Colossians 4:2

Questions:

Have you looked to Jesus for salvation?

Are you looking to Jesus for direction?

How to pray like Jesus...

Mark 14 provides a clear pattern of how Jesus's prayer life

- Pray in a regular place – *Jesus often times resorted thither...*
John 18:2
- Pray privately – *He went forward a little...* v.35
- Pray earnestly – *Fell on the ground...* v.35
- Pray understanding your relationship – *Abba, Father...* v.36
- Pray believing in God's power – *All things are possible unto thee...* v.36
- Pray specifically for your desire – *Take away this cup from me...* v.36
- Pray submitting to God's will – *not what I will, but what thou wilt...* v.36
- Pray continually till God answers – *spake the same words... the third time...* v.39, 41

Concerning literary features of Psalm 123...

1) Repetition

"As the eyes of" in v.2

"Have mercy upon us" in v.2-3

"Exceedingly filled with" in v.3-4

"Contempt" in v.3-4

2) Rhyming

Psalm 123 is called "the rhyming Psalm." Rhyming is rare in Hebrew poetry. All the following Hebrew words end in "enu:"

v.2 – our eyes, our God, have mercy upon us

v.3 – have mercy upon us (twice), filled are we

v.4 – soul

3) Transition

The psalm begins with "I" and "mine" in v.1 but transitions into "our," "us," and "we" for the rest of the Psalm.

Historically, we/ us/ our refers to Israel. The prayer for our God to "have mercy upon us" is answered in the first verse of the next Psalm, "Now may Israel say."

Devotionally, this reminds us that the troubles of one are also the troubles of us all. See 1 Corinthians 12:26