

Knowing

- ♦ We live in an age of information
 - Just whip out your phone to find out
 - Not everything can be known that way
 - Some things require engagement, attentiveness, ...
- Most destructive words spiritually "Just"
 - Trivializes, minimizes things



Knowing ...

- Feast of the Transfiguration
 - Only moment on earth when Jesus' glory revealed
- Psalm 147 Psalm of praise
 - Themes: creator/sustainer and redeemer/healer



1. He Heals & Redeems

- ◆ Context: Return from Exile
 - ♦ 586 BC Judah taken into exile in Babylon
 - ◆ From 539 BC allowed to return
 - ♦ Ps 147 celebrate God's restoration, power, ...
- → First section (vv 1-6) threefold affirmation
 - Good, pleasant, fitting ... to sing praise to God (v 1)



1. He Heals & Redeems ...

- God's character & goodness revealed
 - He builds up, gathers, comforts, heals. (vv 2-3)
 - He is Lord and sustainer of the universe (vv 4-5)
 - He cares for and lifts up the humble (v 6)
- God always heals & redeems in the end



2. He Provides & Delights In

- ◆ Command "Sing to the Lord" (v 7)
 - Command is plural
 - We acknowledge to each other what he's done
- ♦ A sequence describing God's provision:
 - Clouds ... rain ... vegetation ... food (vv 8-9)



2. He Provides & Delights In ...

- God cares for whole creation –
 even more for us
 - His great delight is those who fear him
 - God's joy when we choose to love him



3. He Protects & Reveals

- Exiles return to broken city, destroyed land
- God was their protection
- God reveals himself through his Word
- God establishes a just society
 - Instructions to live in flourishing communities



Living It –

- Most important knowing is more than info
 - "Just" is dangerous it trivializes
 - Ps 147 says why God is worthy of praise
 - "Just" reading waste of time if no contemplation
 - Great loss in not having insight about why praise
- Praise is for us (a gift)
 - Puts things in right perspective
 - God cares because we are his delight & joy



Living It –

- Extra dimension of busy-ness this year
 - God must not be forgotten in the midst of it
- He is my protector
- → He is my sustainer & uplifter

Praise affirms who God is & how life works

