

Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, August 30, 2023 **The Compassion Hymn**

The Call to Praise

Psalm 34:1-3

Psalm as a whole—acrostic; one of 7-9 in the psalms (most complete being Ps. 119)—from A to Z communicate a message – break between vv. 1-10, 11-22 first part either thanksgiving or testimony (Goldingay mentions that not one line directed directly to God, but merely telling what will do and calling others to praise—teaching psalm), second part teaching—rejoice, let me tell you why; Occasion—references I Sam. 21:10-15, but says Abimelech (my father is king) – some say NOT reference b/c different king, others say title like Pharaoh—others say commemorating event and ties together w Abraham/Isaac’s time of dealing w Abimelech in Gen. 20, 26—time of fear, God’s deliverance—focus NOT on event, but on God’s deliverance

I. Personal Resolve to Praise

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. favor, adore—recount mercies/goodness

A. In All Circumstances

what does all mean? Easy to say that should praise the Lord; Rom. 1 did not honor Him as God or give thanks—rejoice in Lord always, in everything give thanks—God’s will for you I Thess. 5:18 requires preparation/forethought/foundation if word have are to have any weight; Ie. When youth group—easy to say will try to take care of building at youth group, but if don’t think ahead, lose ceiling tiles, holes in wall, broken front table or candles; words need a home; praise/blessing needs home—includes words, but must have something behind it; what will preparation for this include so not well-wishing but empty words? takes character to keep focus (not distracted,

B. From My Mouth

Heb. 13:15, Hosea 14:1-3—this normal in Scripture—what keeps continual praise from being normal from our mouths? All heart issues

Hosea 14:1-3 Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity. ² Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity And receive us graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips. ³ “Assyria will not save us, We will not ride on horses; Nor will we say again, ‘Our god,’ To the work of our hands; For in You the orphan finds mercy.”

Hebrews 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.