

**=Story Behind the Psalm=**

Psalm 116

**NOTE:** *These lessons are designed simply as a guideline. As a Sunday School teacher part of your job is to study the lesson and develop it for the pupils in your class according to their age and spiritual development.*

**Scripture:** Psalms 116

**AUTHOR:** Unknown

**The Story Behind the Psalm**

It was written at a time of thanksgiving for congregational singing. Just as Psalm 115 was a choir number, so Psalm 116 was written for all to sing. The power of singing is limitless. Once a famous atheist was speaking to a crowd of several thousand people in a giant auditorium. He disproved to his own satisfaction and to the satisfaction of many that there was no God, that the Bible was not true and that Heaven and Hell were both myths. When he finished the address, he then looked on the lower floor, then to the first balcony, then to the second balcony, and challenged anyone to disprove what he had spoken. Not a noise could be heard until out of the stillness of the quiet came a lovely soprano voice from out of the top balcony as a teenage girl arose to sing, "Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross! Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss. From victory unto victory, His army shall He lead, 'til every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed." Soon other people in the second balcony had joined in the singing. Then the entire upper balcony and the first balcony and then the lower floor people joined until all the people rose and sang together that wonderful song, "Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey. Forth to the mighty conflict in this His glorious day." It is said that there was not a dry eye in the house. When the song was finished someone noticed the atheist had left the platform. The congregational song had not only turned many to faith but caused the atheist to flee!

**The Way It Was Used by God's People**

Psalm 116 was used for congregational singing.

**LESSON:**

The Psalmist realized all the benefits that come from serving God. Perhaps this was the motivation behind the writing of Psalm 116. When we take our eyes off our problems and look for the blessings of God in our life we are humbled and full of gratitude. The Psalmist asks (verse 12), "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits?" He then, led by the Spirit of God, answers his own question.

**1. I will take the cup of salvation (13)**

- a. The best way to show gratitude to the Lord is to receive the gift of salvation He provided for us. God obviously wants us to be in fellowship with Him, that is why He paid such a terrible price for our salvation.
- 2. I will call upon the name of the Lord (13)**
  - a. I will come to God for help before anyone else (II Chronicles 16:12).
  - b. God wants to answer our prayers and come to our aid (II Chronicles 16:9)
- 3. I will pay my vows unto the Lord (14)**
  - a. God expects us to keep our word to Him (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
  - b. Sometimes we make a vow to God in times of desperation (Judges 11) and God expects us to keep those vows.
  - c. We often make decisions concerning our service or dedication to God. Perhaps a sin we are giving up or step we are taking in our Christian life (going soul-winning, reading our bible, being faithful in church).
- 4. I will be willing to die for Him (15)**
  - a. He gave His life for us, the least we could do is be willing to give our life for Him (Psalm 72:14).
- 5. I will serve the Lord as slave (16)**
  - a. The word “servant” is that of a bondservant. Once a slave fulfilled his obligation to his master he could be freed. However, if he so chooses, he could decide to stay and continue to serve his master; no longer out of duty, but out of desire. Many times a slave would be treated so well by his master and a bond would develop between the two. At this time an aul was place through his ear and he became a bondservant. The psalmist said the least he could do to repay God was to serve as a bondservant.
- 6. I will offer sacrifices of thanksgiving (17)**
  - a. The word “praise” means to thank God for all He has done.
  - b. One of the best ways to “repay” God for all He has done for us is to simply be thankful. Too many people go through life enjoying all God’s blessings without being grateful to Him.

**Memory Verse:** *I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.*

*Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.*

**Psalm 116:1-2**