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Week 5 - January 31 –February 6 , 2021

Scripture Reading: Psalm 111

You have no doubt seen television commercials which feature “real people, not actors.” Some companies have no trouble finding real people to endorse their products. Dove soap, Chevrolet and eHarmony find non-actors to extol, praise and endorse commercial products or concepts.

Why? Well, you know. If we’re convinced that the person in love with this herbal, eco-friendly shampoo is a real, common, average person like us, we’ll buy it and try it. We’ll put down cash for stuff because a person of our own tribe and status loves this shampoo — not some phony Hollywood actor/celebrity.

This is why most people, according to a recent survey, prefer real people, not actors, in commercials. It’s just more authentic.

Like the writer of today’s psalm: he’s a real person, like us. Not a professional troubadour, hired to sing praise to Yahweh. This guy’s the real deal.

And the song! This psalm is a work of art! It has 22 phrases (excluding verse 1a), each beginning with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In just 175 words, the singer summarizes the whole history of God’s deliverance of ancient Israel as his poetic homage to the Lord! Psalm 111 is not a voice-over by a paid performer. There’s nothing fake about this person. He’s real. He’s impressed. And he wants to tell us, sell us and ask us to buy and try.

This, then, is what the ancient lyricist has to say. It’s his testimony. He starts with “Praise the LORD” and he ends with “His praise endures forever.”

What is *our* testimony? We are called to be real people, not actors, in our relationships with others. People are looking for real people, authentic people; people who are not showing off, not putting on airs of superiority or self-righteous hypocrisy.

But, of course, we need something positive to say. Do we have anything to say? Are we real people, not actors, in our worship of God?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, I echo what Psalm 111 says about you. I, too, praise you for your loving kindness to me. Amen.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- Sunday:** Job 21-24
- Monday:** Job 25-27
- Tuesday:** Job 28-31
- Wednesday:** Job 21-34
- Thursday:** Job 35-37
- Friday:** Job 38-42
- Saturday:** Psalms 10-12

Verse to Remember

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God.”

- Job 19:25-26

Mini-Sudoku

Each of these two puzzles has four squares. By studying the numbers given, write a number between 1 and 4 in the empty boxes so that each row, column and diagonal have four different numbers, and each of the four boxes has the numbers 1 to 4.

1	2		
4	3		
			3
3		1	2

		1	
3			4
			1
1	3	4	2

VOWEL HUNT

Can you identify these New Testament books which are missing vowels?

1. JD, 2. TTS, 3. PTR, 4. JMS, 5. LK, 6. RVLTN, 7. CTS, 8. TMTH, 9. GLTNS, 10. PHLMN.

Answers to Vowel Hunt:
 1. Jude, 2. Titus, 3. Peter,
 4. James, 5. Luke,
 6. Revelation, 7. Acts,
 8. Timothy, 9. Galatians,
 10. Philemon.

Riddles to Share:

1. What month of the year has 28 days? All of them!
2. To what question can you never answer yes? Are you asleep?
3. David's parents have three sons: Snap, Crackle, and what's the name of the third son? David.

1	2	3	4
4	3	2	1
2	1	4	3
3	4	1	2

4	2	1	3
3	1	2	4
2	4	3	1
1	3	4	2