



Lesson 14: Obedience

Psalms 132 (The Message)

- 1-5 **132** O GOD, remember David,
remember all his troubles!
And remember how he promised GOD,
made a vow to the Strong God of Jacob,
“I’m not going home,
and I’m not going to bed,
I’m not going to sleep,
not even take time to rest,
Until I find a home for GOD,
a house for the Strong God of Jacob.”
- 6-7 Remember how we got the news in Ephrathah,
learned all about it at Jaar Meadows?
We shouted, “Let’s go to the shrine dedication!
Let’s worship at God’s own footstool!”
- 8-10 Up, GOD, enjoy your new place of quiet repose,
you and your mighty covenant ark;
Get your priests all dressed up in justice;
prompt your worshipers to sing this prayer:
“Honor your servant David;
don’t disdain your anointed one.”
- 11-18 GOD gave David his word,
he won’t back out on this promise:
“One of your sons
I will set on your throne;
If your sons stay true to my Covenant
and learn to live the way I teach them,
Their sons will continue the line—
always a son to sit on your throne.
Yes—I, GOD, chose Zion,
the place I wanted for my shrine;
This will always be my home;
this is what I want, and I’m here for good.
I’ll shower blessings on the pilgrims who come here,
and give supper to those who arrive hungry;

I'll dress my priests in salvation clothes;
the holy people will sing their hearts out!
Oh, I'll make the place radiant for David!
I'll fill it with light for my anointed!
I'll dress his enemies in dirty rags,
but I'll make his crown sparkle with splendor."

I. Stable, Not Petrified

Psalm 132 is one of the oldest psalms in the Bible. It was included in the songs of ascent to develop just those aspects of life under God that sometimes lack but we all need. It is a Psalm of David's obedience, of "how he promised God, made a vow to the strong God of Jacob." The song shows obedience as this lively, adventurous response of faith that is rooted in historical fact and reaches into promised hope.

II. Obedience With A History

The first half of Psalm 132 is the part that roots obedience in fact and keeps our feet on the ground. The Psalm takes a single incident of the past, the history of the Ark of the covenant, and reminisces over it.

"Remember how we got the news in Ephrathah, learned all about it at Jaar Meadows? We shouted, 'Let's go to the shrine of dedication! Let's worship at God's own footstool!' Up, God, enjoy your new place of quiet repose, you and your mighty covenant ark."

This history is important, for without it we are at the mercy of whims. Our memories are to help us evaluate and make decisions. With a biblical memory we have thousands years of experience to draw from, which makes it helpful in a life of faith. If we're going to live and mature as the people of God, we need more history in our minds and hearts than our own experience can give us. Psalm 132 activates faith's memory so that obedience will be our go to.

III. Hope: A Race Toward God's Promises

But Psalm 132 doesn't just keep our feet on the ground, it also gets them off the ground. Not only is it a solid foundation for the past, it is a daring leap into the future. The second half of the Psalm leads our obedience into the future. It reveals to us where God is going so we can follow in His steps (see verses 15-18).

IV. The Strength To Stand, The Willingness To Leap

Psalm 132 cultivates the memory and nurtures that hope that leads to mature obedience. It develops a strong sense of continuity with the past and a surging sense of exploration into the future.