

## Talk It Over

Happy How?  
(Week 2)  
Psalm 2

### SMALL TALK

1. When you were young, how did you try to plot, conspire or weasel your way out of a jam with your folks? How did they react?
2. As “king for a day”, what law would you first abolish? Why?

### VIEWPOINT

3. **READ Psalm 2.** What do verses 1-3 indicate is happening that causes the question “Why”? What are the “chains” that the “plotters” want to “throw off”?
4. “Messiah” is Hebrew for “anointed one”. Who is the “messiah” of verse 2? How is opposition to Israel’s king also opposition to God?
5. How did the New Testament writers understand this Psalm? (Matthew 3:17; Acts 4:25-27; 13:33; Hebrews 1:5; 5:5)?
6. What comforting news is declared in verses 4-6? Why is this comforting?

### GETTING PERSONAL

7. Psalm 2 shows us how to be happy even while living in a world filled with rage. So, how do you “take refuge in the ‘Son’” (2:12) while people are in a rage? How do you express “homage”?

### PRACTICE!

- a. What are you grateful for?
- b. What is something God has been showing you this week (in His Word or some other way)?
- c. About the people you are interacting with who do not yet follow Jesus, how can we join you in prayer?
- d. What is keeping you from having a better answer to questions a - c?

January 17, 2021

## Happy How?

Week 2: Psalm 2

Psalm 2 is going to show us how to be happy even in a world filled with rage. Do you think this might be a relevant topic for us to consider today?

In Psalm 2, the world is divided into two categories toward God, those who “rage” and those who “trust.”

Here is a sneak peek at the last verse of Psalm 2 that provides a partial answer to the “Happy How” question.

*Psalm 2:12 (CSB) Pay homage to the Son ... All who take refuge in him are happy.*

But this also gives us a sneak peek as to why the New Testament quotes this Psalm in 5 different places.

Psalm 2 is interesting because we hear quotes or sayings from different speakers throughout the Psalm. The first quote comes from people who plot and rage against God.

### I. What the **RAGERS** Say

*Psalm 2:1–3 (CSB) Why do the nations **rage** and the peoples **plot** in vain? <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and his Anointed One: <sup>3</sup> “Let’s tear off their chains and throw their ropes off of us.”*

In Psalm 1 the godly man *meditated* on the God’s instructions. Here the same verb (translated *plot*) describes the activity of the rebellious who are raging. They have long been *meditating* but on the wrong things. We all think, and helicopter our thoughts around particular patterns of thinking. It is very important what you choose to hover your thoughts over. Are you hovering your thoughts over what is good and

beautiful and of God. Or do you begin to hover over thoughts away from the good and beautiful things that are of God. Beware! Watch out! Such hovering thoughts quickly turn to raging, then plotting, and conspiring together...against the Lord and His Anointed One. Don't be a rager! Ragers want to throw off the constraints God has placed on them by his order, reign, and design.

“Ragers” say, we want to be free. Let's rid ourselves of all language of guilt, or shame. We are free! We are free to decide for ourselves what is right and wrong. We only will do what is right in our own eyes. We will bow to no other but self, my way, my freedom, my own happiness. Who are you to decide what makes me happy!

## II. What the LORD Says

*Psalm 2:4–6 (CSB) The one enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord ridicules them. <sup>5</sup>Then he speaks to them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath: <sup>6</sup>“I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.”*

Ragers are like ants who have raised rebellious fists to confront the Almighty. It is foolishness, and God laughs because he can so easily squash them. It is a ridiculous picture. He does not yet squash them. He says. “Boo!” And terrifies them. He gives them another chance as he declares his decree!

## III. What the KING Says

*Psalm 2:7–9 (CSB) I will declare the Lord's decree. He [the Lord] said to me [who is the Me here? The anointed and installed King, the Messiah!], “You are my Son; today I have become your Father. <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance and the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup>You will break them with an iron scepter; you will shatter them like pottery.”*

These too are the words of God, though in this case it is the Messiah, “the Anointed one,” the King who speaks them. *“I will declare the Lord's decree. He said to me...”*

#### IV. What the TRUSTERS Say

*Psalm 2:10–12 (CSB) So now, kings, be wise; receive instruction, you judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with reverential awe and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Pay homage to the Son or he will be angry and you will perish in your rebellion, for his anger may ignite at any moment. All who take refuge in him are happy.*

Though the fierce wrath of the Lord may surprise you, the spoken decree of justice brings comfort to the TRUSTERS! The raging rebels of the world are not allowed to continue to spin out of control with violence indefinitely. The darkness is not allowed to overwhelm us forever! And while the ragers rage against us, we have a refuge! And those who take refuge in him are happy!

#### V. How do we find REFUGE in a world of RAGE?

*Psalm 2:10 (CSB) So now, kings, be wise; receive instruction...*

We all have little kingdoms. We will all lay our crowns down at his feet honoring the King of Kings (see Revelation 4). Not my kingdom, not my will, not my crown, but your kingdom come, your will be done, and you receive all the glory, honor, and power!

*Psalm 2:11 (CSB) Serve the Lord with reverential awe (with “fear”)*

I love the cozy fire in our wood burning stove with a large glass window in the door to stare at each cold and dark morning. Those who fear God enjoy a close and cozy relationship with him. The fear of fire keeps us in a proper relationship with fire, to comfort us, rather than to harm us.

*Psalm 2:11 (CSB) Serve the Lord with reverential awe and rejoice with trembling.*

This is an odd combination of words. I suppose you can rejoice with so much adrenaline that you are trembling with excitement. Is that it?

Or is it something else? Urging us to maintain this tension. The tension is to maintain a right relationship, one that is not too CLOSE and

assuming because you feel worthy, and not too distant because you feel unworthy.

Both of these have the same error, you are viewing it as if it's all about you. No. Set your gaze toward the almighty, it is about Him, and then you will rejoice...and tremble.

The only way to stop making your relationship with God all about ME is to keep looking to the Almighty!!!

**A fear of the Lord is like a fear of fire (maintain the tension, REJOICE and TREMBLE)**

*Psalm 2:12 (CSB) Pay homage to the Son or he will be angry and you will perish in your rebellion, for his anger may ignite [“flare up” “burn”, “kindle” “consume” “destroy”] at any moment. All who take refuge in him are happy.*

God's wrath is not a cranky explosion, but his settled opposition to the cancer of sin which is eating out the insides of the human race he loves with his whole being. His ignited judgment fire is like applied radiation to eliminate evil and those who are by free choice in their bent toward evil rejecting Him and all that is good. In His Kingdom there comes a day when his sheer Holy goodness takes over. People need to repent while there is still time to do so. God is gracious and will save people at Hell's door, if they will turn to him.

We must put ourselves in a proper relationship to the Lord, a relationship of respect and trust. God rewards “trusters” with protection and blessing. Not so, the “ragers.” “Ragers” do not fear God or respect him. Unless they turn away from the errors of their self ruled lives, judgement is coming.

*Psalm 2:12 (CSB) Pay homage to the Son or he will be angry and you will perish in your rebellion,*

“pay homage to the son” in some translations is “Kiss the Son.” This phrase combines reverence and intimacy. Keep your gaze and attention and heart’s intimacy toward him, and always, be humble about it.

Worship is awkward until you become familiar with worship by practice and begin to feel more intimately close to the Lord who loves you. All this closeness is also with with humble reverence.

### **Bask in the warmth of the reconciled relationship with God**

*Psalm 2:12 (CSB) ... All who take refuge in him are happy.*

Again, like the cozy comfort of the fire, when you bask in the warmth of the reconciled relationship with God. Bask in the peace of God, which is beyond human comprehension.

The God, who is like a purifying fire, will roar with judgement toward those “ragers” who are out of the proper relationship God deserves. God will lovingly purify and bring comfort to those who are “trusters” who place themselves in right relationship with him through the grace he provides.

The Psalm ends with such grand and sweeping HOPE.

### **Take Refuge in Jesus!**

- *Be wise; receive instruction*
- *Serve the Lord with reverential awe*
- *Rejoice with trembling*
- *Pay homage to the Son*
- *Take refuge in Him.*

### **All who take refuge in Jesus are happy.**

You need a refuge. Outside of Jesus there is danger now and there is death and doom later. Taking refuge in Jesus, there is safety forever, and great joy now. Take refuge. Put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and

keep steering yourself to him. Do this over and over as the very center of your life.