**“LONG LIVE THE KING!”**

 **Psalm 72:1-19**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Idea of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What was the most impactful part of the Sermon for you?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

1. How would you rate the United Staes on her promise of “liberty and justice for all”?
2. Do you think it would be possible to have a benevolent human King that ruled well over all nations? One nation?

**Psalm 72:1–19 (NLT)**

1Give your love of justice to the king, O God, and righteousness to the king’s son. 2Help him judge your people in the right way; let the poor always be treated fairly. 3May the mountains yield prosperity for all, and may the hills be fruitful. 4Help him to defend the poor, to rescue the children of the needy, and to crush their oppressors. 5May they fear you as long as the sun shines, as long as the moon remains in the sky. Yes, forever! 6May the king’s rule be refreshing like spring rain on freshly cut grass, like the showers that water the earth. 7May all the godly flourish during his reign. May there be abundant prosperity until the moon is no more. 8May he reign from sea to sea, and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth. 9Desert nomads will bow before him; his enemies will fall before him in the dust. 10The western kings of Tarshish and other distant lands will bring him tribute. The eastern kings of Sheba and Seba will bring him gifts. 11All kings will bow before him, and all nations will serve him.

12He will rescue the poor when they cry to him; he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them. 13He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and he will rescue them. 14He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to him. 15Long live the king! May the gold of Sheba be given to him. May the people always pray for him and bless him all day long. 16May there be abundant grain throughout the land, flourishing even on the hilltops. May the fruit trees flourish like the trees of Lebanon, and may the people thrive like grass in a field. 17May the king’s name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun shines. May all nations be blessed through him and bring him praise. 18Praise the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does such wonderful things. 19Praise his glorious name forever! Let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and amen!

***EXPLORE***

* + - 1. How did the nation of Israel want the reign of their king to be characterized? (72:1)
			2. How did the psalm writer want the king to treat the oppressed and underprivileged? (72:2–4)
			3. What imagery did the psalm writer use to describe the king’s reign? (72:3–7)
			4. How did the psalm writer describe the extent of the king’s domain? (72:8–11)
			5. How is the success of the king explained? (72:12–14)
			6. What motivated the psalm writer to praise the Lord? (72:18–19)

***APPLY***

1. What specific instructions does this psalm give to all people who want to be righteous?
2. How should we pray for our political and church leaders?
3. What attitude should we have toward the poor and oppressed?
4. Who in your circle of influence is in need of experiencing God’s mercy and compassion afresh? How might you be merciful and compassionate to them on God’s behalf?
5. How do we live in the tension of the now/not yet of the kingdom? What can we legitimately expect to manifest here and now versus that for which we will have to wait?