

Meditation on Psalm 107:1-43

*Give thanks to the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind*

Psalm 107 is a song of praise and thanksgiving to God for his gracious love; psalm magnifies the Lord who brings stability, healing and peace to a chaotic world and in the troubled lives of people. Psalm invites the people of Israel to meditate on the great, saving deeds of God and their own failures as described in Psalms 105 and 106. Psalm gives thanks to God, for in his mercy, God heard the cry of the people and he has forgiven people's rebellion, misdeeds, and violence against fellow humans. God of love and life restores the people to well-being. Psalm reflects on the experiences of the people in Egypt, sojourn in the wilderness, wars and exiles; when people thought they are like a wasteland, God's love led them to Promised Land and made them a people with dignity and purpose!

Psalm describes how God controlled hostile cosmic forces for people to pass through safely to the Promised Land: in the dangers at Red Sea crossing, in giving water and manna when afflicted by hunger and thirst in the desert and in the healing of their illnesses. Psalm praises God's benevolent concern for his people. Experience of God's saving presence follows 'people crying out'. 'Crying out' is understood as an expression of people's existential anxiety and confidence in God's redeeming love. It shows God is deeply involved in people's distress. When feel crushed or forsaken, entrust life to God, because all that unfolds in life are a movement in God, destined to reach God!

Attitude of self-sufficiency in thinking and actions is often reason for discouragement and doubts in life. God's grace seldom works in a self-righteous mind! Human efforts to excel in life must be grounded in God. Attitude of gratitude, humility and stewardship way of appropriation of blessings helps to remain in God's friendship. The steadfast love of God that the psalm narrates is sublimely manifested in the life of Christ. The living presence of Christ in the church continues to work mighty deeds of healing and renewal in the world, inviting all to God's kingdom of love. God invites his children to a fellowship [union] in his goodness and grace and to reciprocate that spirit of fellowship with each other. Remembrance [prayer/meditation] of God's gracious presence with us inspires us to remain faithful to our friendship with God!

Father Jose