

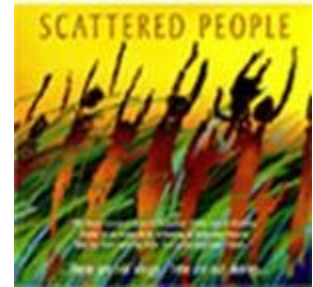
## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> August 5, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> Psalm 44:1-26
<b>Topic:</b> Grasping Our Lord's Desire... For The Scattered People In The World	

What are we to do when we feel that God has abandoned us? This Psalm begins with celebration of God who delivered in the past. The psalm then moves to dejection because God's favor is absent from the present. It concludes with seeking the unfailing mercies of God.

In verses 1-8, we see the Acknowledgement of God who Uplifts. The verses seem to suggest a:

- Story of rehearsal (v.1), reversal (v.2), resource (vv.3a-b) and regard (v.3c)
- Statement of allegiance (v.4), assurance (v.5), awareness (vv.6-7) and alleluias (v.8)



This is a call to explore the interplay between God's power and favor. We need to come before The Lord with our Praises because we must Extol The Father.

In verses 9-22, the psalmist writes of the Agony in gaining Understanding of God's Ways, through a people who are...

- defeated & scattered (vv. 9-11)
- devalued & scoffed at (vv. 12-16)
- disillusioned & stunned (vv. 17-22)

This is a call to explore the interplay between God's path and frustration. This demands of us to come before The Lord with our Puzzles. We must Express ourselves to The Father.

An appeal to the Unfailing Love of God is made in verses 23-26, as there is a Seeking to Rouse God:

- from slumber & shunning of their condition (v. 23)
- to gaze upon their sorry condition (vv. 24&25)
- to action according to His Steadfast Love (v. 26)

This is a call to explore the interplay between God's providence and faith. We ought to come before Him with our Petitions because the fact is that we must Entreat The Father.

Even when we feel forgotten by God we should extend our faith to His unfailing love. Let us continually cry to God until the clouds clear and the path is more certain.