

Understanding Who the Speaker is Addressing

I am one of those people that processes things internally. My wife processes things externally. This has led to some misunderstandings in our relationship. For instance—we are walking in a store and my wife will mention to no one in particular that something is pretty or nice. I personalize this and take it as a “request” and either go into a mode of “we can’t afford that” or do what I can to purchase the item. Little do I realize my Sweet Sue simply thinks an item is nice and leave it at that.

My quiet time these days is in reading the Psalms. I am reading them with a bit more of an eye on who and to whom the writer speaks. Now this discipline goes back to my dad who passed in 2008. He once told me if I want to learn to pray—simply pray Scripture. Because of that I have highlighted my devotional Bible in bold yellow to show the prayers of the saints. This reading I have taken to separate who the Psalmist is speaking to. Instead of describing what I do let me show you:

Psalm 145:1–9 (ESV)

¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

(I see these verses as adoration and a prayer)

³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

(This is “self-talk” or admonition to the saints)

⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

(The Psalmist goes to prayer and praise because of the “reminder” of verse 3)

⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

(Because the verses are in the 3rd person I see this as “self-talk” or admonition to the saints. He quotes from Exodus 34 the revelation of God’s character)

In my opening paragraph I pined over the communication between husband and wife. A good lesson for all is to understand who the speaker is addressing. This simple lesson can alleviate many a misunderstanding.

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