

## 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)

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

(I see these verses as adoration and a prayer)

***<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.***

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

***<sup>4</sup> One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. <sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. <sup>6</sup> They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. <sup>7</sup> 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)

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

(Because the verses are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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