

RECOVERING THE LANGUAGE OF PRAYER

Psalms 3

WISHING TO PRAY BETTER

Eugene Peterson: *"According to the Psalms, the primary use of prayer is not for expressing ourselves but for becoming ourselves—and we cannot do that alone."*

THE THIRD PSALM: LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF PRAYER

1. Some Psalms Contain A Historical Context.

2. Psalms Are Sung and Recited In Community.

Mike McNichols: *"The church prays the Psalms in solidarity with the great cloud of witnesses that has gone before us. They were the prayers of Jesus before they were ever ours, and now we pray those prayers with Him."*

3. The Texture of Psalm Literature is Poetry.

4. The Basic Language of the Psalms is "First Language."

First language:

Second language:

Third language:

Isaac Bashevis Singer: *"I only pray when I am in trouble. But I am in trouble all the time, and so I pray all the time."*

Questions For Reflection and/or Discussion:

• The Christian faith is often described as having "a personal relationship with God." Does your prayer life reflect this kind of relationship? Why or why not? • How much of your own personal prayers reflect first language, second language and/or third language prayer? Is first language prayer difficult for you? • How does one pray the Psalms alone, yet in solidarity with saints throughout the ages? How does this affect our prayers?