

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. *His love endures forever.*
Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love endures forever.*
Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever.*
He remembered us in our low estate *His love endures forever.*
and freed us from our enemies. *His love endures forever.*
He gives food to every creature. *His love endures forever.*
Give thanks to the God of heaven. *His love endures forever.* – Ps. 136:1-3, 23-26

Reading through the Psalms for this week, I was reminded again of a famous old joke. John was talking to God one day about the Psalms and so he asked the Almighty, “God, is it true that for you a million years is like a minute?” “Yes, this is true,” God replied. “And Lord, is it true that for you an inch is like a million miles?” “Yes, this also is true,” the Lord replied. “And Father, is it true that for you a million dollars is like a penny?” “Yes,” the Father replied, “this too is true.” So John screwed up his courage and said, “Majestic, Almighty, Eternal One... can I have a penny?”

To which God replied, “Sure. Just wait a minute.”

So many of the Psalms revolve around this idea of perspective. They recognize that for humankind, our perspective gets so easily diminished. We believe that all that is, or at least all that is important, is that which affects us. When wars happen outside of our sphere of influence, we may feel bad but they don’t really matter that much. Global hunger matters when it affects me, either through guilt or pity or travel, but if not then we don’t think much about it. Mission organizations know this about us, and so they ask us to “adopt” a child from another country and then pay to support them. They know that with a personal tie to this country through this person, we might care about the difficulty they face.

One of the harder things for us to understand is that existence is NOT about us. To even conceive of the fact that we are supporting players (or even walk on roles) in God’s great story offends us to no end. We want to hear about how important we are, what a difference we make, and how much God loves us. We do not want to hear that in 100 years, virtually nobody will remember us let alone revere us. In the light of eternity, our inconsequence is utterly terrifying.

This is one reason I love Ps. 136. The refrain in this antiphonal song is all about perspective: *His love endures forever.* In fact, in light of this eternal God’s love for us (did it throw you that I didn’t say, “God’s eternal love for us?”), we are made important. But only because God loves us and is eternal. God’s love is eternal not because we deserve it or because of us at all; it is eternal because HE is eternal. If you find and read through this whole Psalm, you will see a listing of all that God has done for us, from creation to salvation to provision. And all of it is the work of our eternal God, who loves us the only way He can – eternally.

Take some time today to ponder the vastness of the universe and your particular importance in it. Ponder eternity, and your 90-year slice of it. Ponder all that has happened in our history and your effect on it. And then ponder this: as insignificant and inconsequential as we are, the Eternal God who fills it all loves us as His own children! And it is this that gives us eternal worth in His eyes.

So today, ponder God in all his vastness, enormity, eternity, and power. And then thank Him that He chose you to adopt into His family, to love, and to call to His mission.