

Lesson 22: Psalm 119:169-176 – *Taw*

A Heartfelt Request for God to Seek and Restore His Wandering Sheep

<i>ESV</i>	<i>NKJV</i>	<i>NASB</i>	<i>NIV</i>	<i>NLT</i>
169 Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word!	169 Let my cry come before You, O Lord; Give me understanding according to Your word.	169 Let my cry come before You, O Lord; Give me understanding according to Your word.	169 May my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word.	169 O Lord, listen to my cry; give me the discerning mind you promised.
169 Let my cry come before You, O Lord; give me understanding according to Your word.				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>Let my cry come before you, O Lord. Humbly asking the Lord to hear his prayer. God has no obligation to listen to our prayers. Cp. vss. 170, 173, 175. The psalmist readily admits his complete dependence on God.</p> <p>Give me understanding according to your word! Understanding (knowledge, wisdom, discernment, insight) about God, himself, other people, the world, life, his circumstances.</p> <p>According to your word. Used seven times in Psalm 119: 9, 25, 28, 65, 107, 169, 170. Cp. 1 Kings 3:10-14 (vs. 12) where God blessed Solomon “according to his word” and Luke 1:38 where Mary responded to the angel, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”</p>				
<p>Application:</p> <p>Understanding is a gift from God. I cannot truly understand without God’s help. However, I must desire and pursue it. I need to know the Word (by studying, meditating, reflecting upon it) to gain understanding.</p> <p>“Thank You Lord that You are the Source of understanding and that You willingly provide it. Thank You for Your Word and Your Holy Spirit who teaches me, guides me, and gives me understanding.”</p>				
170 Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word.	170 Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word.	170 Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word.	170 May my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.	170 Listen to my prayer; rescue me as you promised.
170 Let my plea come before You; deliver me according to Your word.				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>Let my plea come before you. Parallel to “Let my cry come before you, O Lord” (vs. 169).</p>				

Deliver me. Deliver (rescue) me from the enemies of my soul: sin, self and Satan; the world, the flesh and the devil.				
Application: "Thank You Lord that You listen to and answer my prayers. Thank You for Your deliverance."				
171 My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes.	171 My lips shall utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes.	171 Let my lips utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes.	171 May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees.	171 Let praise flow from my lips, for you have taught me your decrees.
171 My lips will pour forth praise, for You teach me Your statutes.				
Commentary: Praising the Lord for understanding of His Word.				
Application: "Please forgive me, Lord, for I do not praise You nearly enough. Praise, worship, thanksgiving should be second nature to me, but they are not. Please help me to praise You more and more." "Thank You for being my Teacher. Teach me Your Word, give me understanding and insight, day after day. Thank You, so much, for Your Word."				
172 My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.	172 My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.	172 Let my tongue sing of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.	172 May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.	172 Let my tongue sing about your word, for all your commands are right.
172 My tongue will sing of Your word, for all Your commandments are right (righteous).				
Commentary: My tongue will sing of your word. Parallel to "My lips will pour forth praise" (vs. 171).				
Application: "I praise, worship and adore You for Your righteous Word."				
173 Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.	173 Let Your hand become my help, For I have chosen Your precepts.	173 Let Your hand be ready to help me, For I have chosen Your precepts.	173 May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.	173 Give me a helping hand, for I have chosen to follow your commandments.
173 Let Your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Your precepts.				
Commentary: Quid pro quo (this for that) in the best sense. Choosing God's Word results in God's blessing.				
Application: "Thank You Lord that You bless my life and ministry when I choose to live in obedience to Your Word."				

174 I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.	174 I long for Your salvation, O Lord, And Your law is my delight.	174 I long for Your salvation, O Lord, And Your law is my delight.	174 I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.	174 O Lord, I have longed for your rescue, and your instructions are my delight.
174 I long for Your salvation (deliverance), O Lord, and Your law is my delight.				
Commentary: Again we see the psalmist's complete dependence on God.				
Application: "Cause me to delight, more and more, in Your Word."				
175 Let my soul live and praise you, and let your rules help me.	175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; And let Your judgments help me.	175 Let my soul live that it may praise You, And let Your ordinances help me.	175 Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain me.	175 Let me live so I can praise you, and may your regulations help me.
175 Let me live that I may praise You, and let Your laws sustain me.				
Commentary: And let Your laws sustain me. Spiritual life and nourishment from the Word of God. Matthew 4:4 – "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."				
Application: "Thank You for the spiritual nourishment that comes from feeding on (time spent in) Your Word."				
176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.	176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; Seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments.	176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments.	176 I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands.	176 I have wandered away like a lost sheep; come and find me, for I have not forgotten your commands.
176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.				
Commentary: I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Psalms 119:10 – "With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!" "...we often fail. The writer of this psalm found himself in the dust and had to cry out for "reviving" (vv. 5,37,40,50,88,93,107,149,154,156, 159). Once he had done that, he confessed his sins, got up and started walking with God again. <i>The victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings.</i> As we cultivate an appetite for the Word (vv. 10,20,40,81,131) and feed upon it, we give the Spirit something to work with in our hearts, and He enables us to walk in God's paths. If we feel ashamed when we read the Word (v. 6; see v. 80), then we have to stop and find out why and then confess it to the Lord... Better to be ashamed now and confess it than to be ashamed when we meet the Lord (1 John 2:28)." (<i>The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament, Warren W. Wiersbe</i>)				

Isaiah 53:6 – “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Seek your servant – He reaffirms his desire to be the servant of the Lord in spite of wandering away from Him.

Application: How many times have I worked my way through Psalm 119, only to come to this last verse and find that it is, once again, the prayer of my heart and the need of my life? How often I wander from God, His Word, and the path of righteousness!

“Lord, thank You that You are willing and ready, time after time, to come and seek me when I have wandered away from You.”

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing *(by Robert Robinson)*

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, Mount of God’s unchanging love.

Here I raise my *Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I’m come.

(*According to 1 Samuel 7:12, a stone commemorating God’s deliverance

And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.

of His people; literally “stone of help.”)

Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand’ring from the fold of God.

He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be!

Let that grace, now like a fetter, Bind my yielded heart to Thee.

Let me know Thee in Thy fullness; Guide me by Thy mighty hand

Till, transformed, in Thine own image, In Thy presence I shall stand.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love:

Take my heart, oh, take and seal it With Thy Spirit from above.

Rescued thus from sin and danger, Purchased by the Savior’s blood.

May I walk on earth a stranger, As a son and heir of God.

Taw

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174 I long for Your salvation (deliverance), O Lord, and Your law is my delight.

175 Let me live that I may praise You, and let Your laws sustain me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.