PSALM

123

CXXIII

Communal Lament

Writer not named · Book V · Songs of Ascents

"A Song of Ascents."

PICTURE WORD

Servant Eyes

IN ONE SENTENCE

With eyes fixed on the enthroned LORD like servants watching their master's hand, the scorned people plead for mercy.

Remember it: One-twenty-three: eyes on the Master's hand until mercy comes.

MEMORY VERSE

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to Yahweh, our God, until he has mercy on us.

Psalm 123:2 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

חָנֵּנוּ

"have mercy" · verse 2

In the Psalms: 32 times, in 22 psalms

חָנַן means "to be gracious" or "to show favor," giving kindness that is not earned. Its noun is the "favor" Noah found in the LORD's eyes, and the priestly blessing asks that the LORD "be gracious to you." The psalm repeats the plea three times: have mercy, have mercy, have mercy.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–2	Our eyes look to the LORD like servants to a master
3–4	Have mercy, for we are full of the proud's contempt

MY NOTES

Listen. Hear Psalm 123 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at **ispress.de/psalms/123**.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Crying Out in Distress · Waiting on God · Refuge in Trouble

FILL IN THE BLANKS

With eyes fixed on the _____ LORD like servants watching their _____ hand, the scorned people plead for _____.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. Where does the LORD sit?

(A) On the mountain
(B) In the temple court
(C) In the heavens
(D) By the river

2. The eyes of servants look to what?

(A) The hand of their master
(B) The door of the house
(C) The road ahead
(D) Their wages

3. Whose scoffing has filled their soul?

(A) Their children's
(B) The priests'
(C) The soldiers'
(D) Those who are at ease

TALK IT OVER

1. What picture does verse 2 paint? What do servants watch for in their master's hand?

2. What does it mean that God "sits in the heavens" while we wait below?

3. When people treat you with contempt, how can looking to God change your response?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 123 TEACH?

☐ I listened to the song
☐ I can say what it teaches
☐ I can say verse 2 by heart
☐ I know the picture word

Answers Blanks: enthroned · master's · mercy · Check yourself: 1. C (v. 1) · 2. A (v. 2) · 3. D (v. 4)