

Sermon Discussion Guide

Psalm 116 – “Precious in the Sight of the Lord”

Preaching Date: January 11, 2026

Opening Prayer

Thank God for His mercy, deliverance, and steadfast love. Ask Him to help us trust Him more deeply in both life and death, to call on Him in every distress, and to offer our lives in gratitude as faithful servants who know we are dearly loved.

Recap

Psalm 116 is a deeply personal psalm of thanksgiving and love—a testimony from someone who was brought to the edge of death and rescued by the Lord. The psalmist reflects on God’s grace, righteousness, and compassion, and responds with love, trust, and public praise.

This psalm was likely sung by Jesus with His disciples the night He was betrayed. As such, it carries particular significance for believers: Christ faced death trusting His Father fully, and by His resurrection, He ensures that the death of His saints is never meaningless.

Psalm 116 calls us to be faithful servants—who love the Lord, cry out to Him, trust His character, endure suffering, keep our vows, and offer lives of praise. And through it all, we are reminded that in both life and death, we are precious to God.

Understanding the Text

Verse 1: Why does the psalmist declare, “I love the LORD”? What personal experiences are behind this statement?

Verses 2–4: What specific trouble does the psalmist describe here? What does this passage teach us about how to pray in crisis?

Verses 5–7: What do these verses reveal about the character of God? How does knowing who God is help us find “rest” for our souls?

Verses 8–11: What kind of suffering does the psalmist describe, and what truths did he hold onto in the midst of it?

Verses 12–14: How does the psalmist respond to God’s deliverance? What are the right motivations for serving the Lord?

Verse 15: What does it mean that “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His godly ones”? How does this shape our view of suffering and death?

Verses 16–19: How does the psalmist express gratitude? What role does public worship play in the believer's response to salvation?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. Can you think of a time when you cried out to God in distress and He heard you? How did that shape your love for Him?
2. Harriet Newell gave her life to Christ's mission, even though she never reached the field. What does her life say about God's ability to use what seems small or tragic?
3. How do you tend to respond to suffering—do you find it hard to trust God, or do you draw near to Him?
4. The psalmist speaks of fulfilling vows in the presence of God's people. What kinds of commitments have you made to the Lord, and how can you live them out with integrity?
5. Verse 15 offers comfort in death. How can this truth help us approach death—our own or a loved one's—with gospel hope?

God Has More to Say

God's Compassion and Mercy

- Exodus 34:6
- Psalm 103:8–13
- 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

Offering Our Lives in Worship

- Romans 12:1–2
- Hebrews 13:15–16
- 1 Peter 2:9

God Hears Our Cry

- Psalm 34:17–18
- Jonah 2:1–2
- Hebrews 4:15–16

Jesus in the Psalm

- Matthew 26:30 (Jesus singing the Hallel)
- John 12:27
- Hebrews 5:7

The Lord Values His Saints

- Romans 8:35–39
- Philippians 1:21–23
- Revelation 14:13