

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's turn our bible to Psalm 5 –

This morning, we are going to study the last song we just sung in worship this morning.

Psalm 5 was one of my favorite worship songs as a new believer.

It was one of the worship songs that was sung at church and also one of the songs that I had on CD –

So I would listen to it over and over again – didn't realize that I was actually memorizing scripture until later on.

The individual who wrote the music to Psalm 5 was a 26 year old by the name of Bill Sprouse Jr.

Not only was he a song writer and a singer, he was an evangelist.

And a few days after he recorded this song, he went to be with the Lord.

The band decided to finish the album and they made the decision to include his recording of Psalm 5.

So now, every time I read Psalm 5 – I can't help but hear the melody in the background.

Now, the book of Psalms is a collection of Psalms that were sung in the temple.

This is the hymnbook of God's people.

But even more importantly church – this is a Him book (Him) because it is all about Jesus Christ.

[Heb 10:7 NKJV] 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.' "

The writer of the book of Hebrews was quoting Psalm 40 –

He was speaking of Jesus.

We're going to see a lot of Jesus in the Psalms.

It is my prayer that as we continue on this journey through the Psalms, we won't just look at these songs academically, but that we may also grow as worshippers.

Let's pray...

Read Psalm 5 with congregation

So a little background on Psalm 5 –

There are many bible scholars that believe that Psalm 5 was during the time period where Absalom rebelled against David –

This was a dark time in the life of David as not only did his son betray him – his own advisor (Ahithophel) betrayed him and joined his son - the majority of the people turned against David as well, as they wanted a younger king –

So now David finds himself fleeing Absalom with a few loyal followers.

So the reason that scholars believe this is because they will group Psalm 3-6 together.

Psalm 3 tells us that David writes it as he flees Absalom –

And because there are a few similarities between these four psalms – so they will group them together.

And it may be true –

But we're not told the historical setting in the text.

However, we can sense a bit about the personal setting here.

David found himself, as he often did, in a time of pressure and difficulty in his life.

We don't know exactly where the strain was coming from.

And that's a good thing!

Because each of us have a lot of situations and circumstances playing out in our lives today.

What we do see here in Psalm 5, is a man in prayer.

He is considering his situation and his Savior, looking back and forth between these two things and not only making requests, but coming to these great conclusions.

No matter what the situation or the stresses that life may bring, his Savior is a shelter and support and shield.

And in the multitude of His mercy, is faithful to His people and will set us on a path to joy and triumph in life and over death.

[Psa 5:1-12 NKJV] 1 To the Chief Musician. With flutes. A Psalm of David. Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation.

So the Psalm begins with a title.

We know who wrote it – David

We know what instrument was supposed to accompany the Psalm – flutes. Some of the Psalms were to be accompanied by stringed instruments – here it is the flute.

And we see it directed to the Chief Musician.

Some believe the Chief Musician here in Heman, who David appointed to be Chief Musician in the house of the Lord, other believe it refers to Asaph (1 Chronicles 6) and there are others who believe that the title of Chief Musician here is directed to God Himself.

So David cries out – Give ear to my word, consider my meditation.

David was troubled about what was going on in his life.

What he is saying here is – Please Lord, I need You to listen to my request and I need You to intervene on my behalf.

From this opening verse, we see the urgency in David's prayer and we get a sense of the emotion behind it.

This is not a prayer where wakes up one morning and simply goes through the motions – he is pouring his heart out to God.

And as we will see in the next two verses, David is going to repeat the request over and over again.

Please listen to what I am crying out to You and intervene -

I want you to notice how many times David makes a request to God to do something on his behalf in this short prayer.

Not only does David show concern for the circumstances that are occurring in his life during this time –

He is demonstrating boldness and courage as he brings his petition before the Lord.

Church, I want to make sure that we understand that it wasn't pride that made David speak that way; it's that he understood the character of God.

He had insight into the heart of God.

He knew that God is mindful of us and that His concern for our lives go far beyond our own.

2 Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray. 3 My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct [it] to You, And I will look up.

David prayed to God – For to You I will pray.

And we must make sure that our prayers are directed to God as well.

You might say – well aren't all prayers directed to God?

Not exactly.

There are times when we pray, our focus is only on our petition or on our circumstances or on how we are feeling – and therefore, we never consciously focus on God and sense His presence.

Church, David was a great man of prayer because his prayer time was focused on God.

R.A. Torrey, in his book, "How to pray"

Wrote the following

"Very much of so-called prayer, both public and private, is not unto God. In order that a prayer should be really unto God, there must be a definite and conscious approach to

God when we pray; we must have a definite and vivid realization that God is bending over us and listening as we pray.”

Turn with me to John 11,

As I was doing the study, I looking over some of the prayers that Jesus prayed.

So here in chapter 11, Jesus arrives in Bethany and is told that Lazarus has been dead for four days.

[Jhn 11:38-43 NKJV] 38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench (by the way, if you have a KJV – it actually says he stinketh), for he has been [dead] four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" 41 Then they took away the stone [from the place] where the dead man was lying. **And Jesus lifted up [His] eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 "And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said [this], that they may believe that You sent Me." 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"**

Here we have an example of a public prayer unto God.

Why did Jesus pray a public prayer?

For the sake of Martha and Mary and those that were there –

So that they would believe in the ministry that God the Father had called Him to do.

My voice You shall hear in the morning

David was one who prayed in the morning.

We all have our routine of what we do when we get up.

For some of us it takes an hour to get ready and some of us, we get ready in 15 minutes.

And the one thing that we often neglect is our prayer life.

This is what is going to get us through the circumstances that we encounter every day.

Yet it is the area in our life that is most often neglected.

Not only did David pray in the morning, he looked up after he prayed.

Why did he look up?

Because he anticipated God hearing and then answering his prayer.

Church, do we anticipate God to answer our prayers?

David looked up because he had confidence that his prayer was going to be answered.

What gave David that confidence?

His confidence in his faith? No

His confidence was in the person to whom he was praying – the LORD.

Remember capital LORD is a translation of Yahweh – the covenant name of God.

David was confident that the God who had entered into covenant with him would hear and answer his prayer. He could therefore “look up” for the answer to his cry.

4 For You [are] not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You. 5 The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. 6 You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

Once again, David is looking at the circumstances around him and then he looks up.

He looks at those who have wronged him and then he looks up.

And as he looks up for God to answer his cry, he focuses on God’s holiness.

And it is there that David comes to the intense realization that God takes no pleasure in sin, therefore sinners have a big problem.

The Lord shows David a glimpse of His plan to bring righteousness to the world and purge His creation of sin.

The Lord’s long-suffering waits at the moment, but the day is coming where He will fully and finally judge sin.

And the only ones who can stand in His presence are those who stand in Christ Jesus.

Apart from faith in Christ, all our good works, all our good intentions are filthy rags before the purity of the Lord.

[Psa 118:19-20 NKJV] 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, [And] I will praise the LORD. 20 This is the gate of the LORD, Through which the righteous shall enter.

Jesus Christ is the only hope for the sinner because sin has no place in His glory – it must be dealt with and it was on the cross.

When we truly understand how much God hates sin – we will then grow in our appreciation for the gospel.

[Rom 5:8-11 NKJV] 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only [that], but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Church, what amazing grace –

The God who hates sin gave His Son to save sinners like you and me.

7 But as for me, **I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy**; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. 8 Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; **Make Your way straight** before my face.

David understood that he too was a wicked man who deserved none of the blessing of God.

He was a man of violence

He was an adulterer and a murderer

But it was only by God's mercy that David was allowed to continue in life and continue in worship and service to the Lord. And David knew that.

He knew mercy was there and accessible to him.

Recognizing his own sinfulness, he declared with hope and certainty that he was going to go right into the house of the Lord because of God's available mercy.

And rather than continue in the wickedness that he described in verse 4-6, David asks the Lord, "Lord, please lead me in Your righteousness. I want to conform to what does please You.

Church, that cleansing and that access is made possible by the multitude of God's mercy.

None of us deserves access to God or His house or His ear or His power by our own merit.

Yet God has given us those things anyway in Jesus Christ.

He invites anyone who is willing to come through the gates of righteousness, to enter in, not only receive but become.

Become a person transformed by God's lovingkindness and defined by His righteousness.

As David focuses on God's holiness, he wants God to guide him – he knows that there are people ready to trip him – so he asks for guidance – he asks that the Lord to lead him in the path of righteousness – not the path of comfort – or the path of success or anything else.

David wants to walk in the path that the Lord has set before him.

I believe we see an application for the church here.

Our concern should be to make sure that we are walking on the path of righteousness that God has carved out before us.

Are we allowing the fullness of Christ to transform us or we simply content in our spiritual walk.

9 For [there is] no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part [is] destruction; Their throat [is] an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue. 10 Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You.

Notice in these descriptions just how corrupted these people are truly revealed to be. David uses graphic language to show how dead and decayed a person is who has rebelled against God.

Here is the thing church.

This description applied to each of us before salvation.

Our lives were like a fresh grave, full of nothing but death.

Since it was death inside, death came out.

As believers, we are no longer dead to God, we are dead to sin.

By God's intervention and our surrender.

He's put everything in place that we might have abundant life.

It's His power and His plan and His pleasure to take a corrupted person and redeem them and conform them into the image of His Son.

But we cooperate with that by ending the rebellion in our hearts and obeying and turning to God in faith.

Notice the difference between those in verse 10 and verse 7

There are two multitudes

Those who find themselves in the multitude of His mercy and those who find themselves in the multitude of their transgressions – those that respond to His grace and mercy and those that reject it.

11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.

12 For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as [with] a shield.

As David brings his thoughts to a close, he realizes that our great God does not have to be convinced to love us or act on our behalf.

He realizes that God has come onto the battlefield of life with a shield to completely cover and surround us.

Those who believe in Him now belong to Him and as we take refuge in Christ, the Lord goes out to defend us and cover us.

In that regard, God does not only give His people an exit strategy, but He also gives us a protection plan.

. The Bible explains very clearly that there is one way to salvation and that is through faith in Christ.

We turn to Him and believe He is God, believe that because He died in our place our sins can be forgiven and that now He has a new life for us, a new path for us to walk.

Because of all of this we have reason to celebrate.

Reason to be glad.

Because God has decided to surround His people with His favor, His grace and His mercy and His love.

David began his prayer just hoping God would hear him, here he comes to the end of these verses realizing that he's received so much more.

But the most important element is the God of abundant lovingkindness.

The righteous God of multiplied mercy.

He sees. He hears. He knows. And He promises that as we seek first His Kingdom and our place in that Kingdom and His righteousness, these things shall be added unto us: His covering. His defense. His joy. His guidance. His salvation.

The God who hears our prayers doesn't just file them away somewhere.

He has interceded and has for each of us whatever we need no matter where we find ourselves.

Pray to Him. Consider Him.

Consider what He has granted to us and given to us freely.

And then walk in His righteousness, rejoice in Him, trust Him to shelter and lead us on into more of His abundant life.

Amen

Let's pray...

