

Psalm 30

Sermon Notes
May 26, 2019

Themes:

Approval ratings

When you've been through hard times, you talk differently.

Outline:

1. David praised the Lord because of the deliverance the Lord gave him (1-3, 11-12).

- “You” (6-7X). Emphasized the work of God. David gave credit to God for rescuing him.
- “LORD” (4X) = Yahweh. David recognized his deliverance as part of God’s work keeping his promise to Abraham. So, he uses God’s covenant name.
- David described his deliverance as being spared from death and as healing.
 - Because of the reference to healing, some think this Psalm was written after a severe illness. Perhaps, but there’s no record in the OT of a miraculous physical healing in David’s life.
 - I’m more persuaded by those who think it was written when David was restored as king after being overthrown by his son, Absalom.
 - This is one of the saddest stories in the Bible. David’s relationship with his son was so broken that Absalom formed a coup, rallied the armies against David, and ousted his own father from power.
 - In verse 11, David speaks of wailing in sackcloth, and we know when that happened. 2 Samuel 15:30 talks about David weeping, walking barefoot with his head covered when he was driven out of his palace.
 - After David fled, along with all who were loyal to him, Absalom led the armies out to find and kill David. During this battle the tables turned, Absalom was killed, his armies dispersed, and eventually David was restored as king and returned to his palace.
 - The title of this Psalm says it was written for the dedication of the temple. Lit. “house.” This could easily refer to a re-consecration of David’s palace after it was desecrated by Absalom.
- David understood the purpose of his deliverance was so that he might praise God for the rest of his life. Lit. “forever.” Permanent praise.
 - To praise is to express **approval** and **admiration** for who someone is and what they have done. For David, recognizing the goodness of God and greatness of his actions is the chief purpose of his life. And not just his, the call to praise God is universal.
 - Psalm 150:6. The last verse of the Psalms says, “let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.”
- **David praised the Lord because of the deliverance the Lord gave him.**

2. Everyone who knows the Lord should praise him b/c his favor far outlasts his anger (4-5).

- David moved from his own personal praise to calling on all “faithful people” to praise him. To praise his “holy name.” His perfect character. His reliable ways.
 - This section highlights two truths about God’s holy name.
- God’s anger is momentary, but his favor lasts a lifetime.
 - David knew the reason he had been in the depths of despair. It was because of God’s anger toward him.
 - Soon after David was established as king the first time, he abused his power by committing adultery and then murder to cover it up. Appropriately, God burned with righteous anger against David (God’s anger is always righteous). As punishment, God told him exactly what would happen.
 - **2 Samuel 12:7ff.** This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹ Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’ ¹¹ “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you.’”
 - Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴ But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.”
 - **When we are hurting, we don’t always know why. And I’m not suggesting God’s anger is behind all our problems. But, like David, sometimes we all make choices that violate God’s law, and we pay the consequences.** But the wonderful thing about God’s grace and kindness is that those consequences aren’t nearly as severe as they could be, and for his children, they always serve our ultimate good.
 - **Proverbs 3:11-12.** My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.
 - Another part of God’s grace and kindness toward us is that, in the big picture, his anger is momentary, but his favor lasts a lifetime.
 - **Exodus 20:5-6.** I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.
 - **2 Corinthians 4:17-18.** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
 - The real key to praising God as good and loving, despite our suffering, is to take an eternal perspective. In comparison to eternity, our lifetime is a vapor. As soon as it appears, it’s gone.
 - For everyone who knows the Lord, we will experience his uninterrupted favor forever.
- Just as night passes and morning comes, so also weeping will end and joy will come.
 - Everything is worse at night.

- When you're sick, you think morning will never come.
 - When you're afraid in the dark, you think the sun will never come up.
 - EXAMPLE. Have you ever been camping when a storm came through at night? Those are some long nights.
 - But the sun always comes up. That's a promise. It's the way God designed the world, and it's the way he designed suffering. It will come to an end, and joy will flood the horizon.
- ***Everyone who knows the Lord should praise him because his favor far outlasts his anger.***

3. Follow David's example of moving from pride to prayer (6-10).

- As the Psalm continues, we can see how David moved from speaking generally about his deliverance (1-3), to referencing God's anger as the cause of his despair (4-5), and here he speaks most specifically about how he fell into the sins of adultery and murder, and how he responded to God's anger.
- After David ascended to the apex of his power and was established in his kingdom the first time, he became presumptuous. He forgot that it was God who gave him security and blessing, and he presumed that he was untouchable. After leading his armies into battle after battle and winning victory over all his enemies, he said, "when I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."
 - 2 Samuel 11:1. "In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. But David remained in Jerusalem." Scripture says pride goes before a fall, and that certainly proved true for David. During the time he should have been leading his armies, he became an adulterer and murderer. It was his pride of presumption that put him in a place where he was susceptible to sin.
 - John Calvin: "we are very slow and cold in thinking of God's benefits."
 - This the point where I think we can most relate to David. And I think this is the main takeaway from the Psalm. When things go wrong, we're quick to question God. But when things go well, we're not as quick to praise him. We tend to claim credit, rely on ourselves and assume the good times will continue to roll. Just like David.
- One area where David is a consistent example is his response when confronted with his own pride. When he moved from the "I" of verse 6 (3X) to the "you" of verse 7 (3X), he saw clearly his only response was to cry out to God for mercy. He humbly seeks mercy and help, and he appeals to the purpose for which he was created—to praise God.
 - He said to God, "I get it. I'm here to praise you. Let me live so that I may fulfill my duty." That was his prayer. In his pride, it's safe to say he wasn't praying that way.
 - ***Let's follow David's example of moving from pride to prayer.***