

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

Psalm 11

Why Stay Put?

Focus Verse: Psalm 150:6

Lesson Verse: Mt 26:56

I. Introduction to the Book of Psalms

- A. The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament is God's answer to the headaches and heartaches of life. Without it, the Bible would not be complete - as a matter of fact, next to the Gospels, Psalms is probably the most read part of the Bible because of the reality and the promises found there!
- B. Most of the Psalms were journal entries for David, recording the thoughts of his heart as he faced different struggles and troubles. They were written to be sung in worship.
- C. The Holy Spirit was actually having David write these great truths so that we, even 3,000 years later can face struggles and troubles with the same confidence that David grew to have.
- D. It is amazing how every one of the questions and struggles David had, we still have today, so let's see what Psalm 11 can teach us!

II. Background (Mt 26:56)

- A. The disciples at the crucifixion found it hard to stay put - the pressure seemed too great. They fled from their enemies, from the pressures, from the persecution.
 1. The disciples RAN when that mob grabbed Jesus and started binding His hands like a criminal
 2. Peter at first only denied being a disciple of Jesus
 3. But he ended up lying that he even KNEW Jesus
 4. He thought he would stand by Jesus, but he couldn't! And he didn't!
- B. The greatest need of Christianity right now today is to stop running from pressures, and to make our *stand* (Eph 6:11-13) and be faithful to whatever God has called us to do!
- C. King David worked through some of the same things that caused the apostles to run. Let's learn them!

III. Message - Why Christians Don't Run (Psalm 11) - Why Stay Put?

- A. **Three Reasons People Run and Hide** (Ps 11:1-3) There are always going to be reasons why a person should run, or quit, or give-up! Many times there are MORE reasons than not!
 1. Our enemy is out to *destroy* - not just inflict pain or damage (1Pet 5:8)
 - a. How many lives are destroyed every year because they stop following Jesus?
 - b. They go back to their old friends, and old ways
 - c. And their lives fall apart
 - d. Satan is out not to help anybody, but to totally, and absolutely destroy (John 10:10)
 2. Our enemy is hard to spot - he has had 6,000 years of practice!
 - a. He is a counterfeiter
 - b. He is an angel of light
 3. Our enemy is constantly striking at our **FOUNDATION**
 - a. They are attacks at our very foundation! Not at our roof, or at our walls - same with evolutionary teachings
 - 1) They Attack the Bible (2Pet 3:14-16; 2Cor 2:17)
 - 2) They mock real faith – mock Christians who live obeying the Bible instead of going with the flow
 - 3) They attack our love for the Lord, for one another and for the lost - calling it cultish, or fanatical - that one word drives people away
 - 4) They mess with our fears - getting us to fear the wrong things, and no longer fearing right things
 - a) People fear society like never before (what people think about us)
 - b) People fear losing their jobs, or their friends – more important to them than living! Would rather die than be laughed at
 - c) People fear failure - what a world we live in!
 4. Christians DO get overwhelmed! (Ps 55:5; 61:2; 102:1 title)
 - a. By troubles
 - b. By family problems
 - c. By mental stress

- d. By fear
- e. By tiredness
- f. It is not a sin to be overwhelmed! It is only wrong when you give up when you are overwhelmed!!!

5. People today (as always) easily would rather not deal with problems so they quit on God:
 - a. Quit doing the right things (coming out to church meetings, reading their Bible, being honest)
 - b. Quit trying to trust in the Lord (they instead just do what everyone else is doing to get by)
 - 1) They just up and move away – without praying and fasting
 - 2) They quit waiting on God to bring a godly girlfriend or boyfriend along
 - 3) They won't pray about anything – they just get themselves deeper and deeper in holes
 - c. Quit witnessing on the job, and to their family
 - d. Quit even their marriages
 - e. David was tempted to quit waiting on God to become king (1Sam 27:1)

B. **Four Reasons why NOT to Run** (Ps 11:4-7; 1Cor 15:58)

1. ***The Lord is STILL on His Throne*** (Cf Isa 6).
 - a. He is going to win, with or without you!
 - b. Everything is in His hand - under His final control
 - 1) The heart of the king (Pr 21:1)
 - 2) The motion of every atom and molecule in this universe (Col 1:16)
 - 3) Your destiny (John 10:28)
 - 4) AND your problem – Job learned this!
2. ***The Lord SEES through everything***
 - a. He knows fully what is going on.
 - b. He is not blind, or near-sighted.
 - c. You don't have to "bring Him up to speed" on things when you pray (Mt 6:7,8).
 - d. He knows what you are going through, and designed it to not be too much!
 - e. Satan means for it to destroy you, but God means it for good (Gen 50:20; Rom 8:28)
3. ***The Lord WILL destroy the wicked*** (Cf 2Thes 1:8-f). That's a promise.
 - a. Talking primarily at the devil
 - b. But also talking about your darkest physical enemies as well - like Hitler was to the Jews, and 9 million Russians who died in WWII (Rom 12:19)
4. ***The Lord LOVES His people*** (Ps 11:7; Dt 7:7,8). The Lord loves you and won't let things happen to you that are more than you can handle!

IV. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. Why do people run from pressures and struggles?
 1. Our enemy is out to **destroy** - not just inflict pain or damage (1Pet 5:8)
 2. Our enemy is hard to spot - he has had 6,000 years of practice!
 3. Our enemy is constantly striking at our foundation
- B. Do Christians ever get overwhelmed?
- C. Can a Christian get strong enough to NOT cave under pressure?
- D. How?
- E. **By Remembering the Four Reasons why NOT to Run** (Ps 11:4-7)?
 1. The Lord is STILL on His Throne (Cf Isa 6).
 2. The Lord sees through everything - He knows fully what is going on. He is not blind, or near-sighted. You don't have to "bring Him up to speed" on things (Mt 6:7,8)
 3. The Lord WILL destroy the wicked (Cf 2Thes 1:8-f). That's a promise.
 4. The Lord loves His people (Ps 11:7; Dt 7:7,8). The Lord loves you and won't let things happen to you that are more than you can handle!
- F. **Therefore we can stay on course, as Paul did (Acts 20:22-24)**