

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

Psalm 13

Silent Again

Focus Verse: Psalm 150:6

Lesson Verse: Psalm 13:1

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 Psalms 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. In this middle Book of the Bible, you will find every extreme of emotion and every struggle with faith
- C. You are not going through anything different than what every other believer has gone through already.
- D. You just have the benefit of these truths already being written down for you!

II. Background

- A. If you have been a Christian for very long, it can seem like God goes to sleep (goes silent) on us at times, and even for extended periods of time.
- B. It seems like we are alone when go through battles, valleys sometimes.
- C. It's like God is just not there.
- D. You KNOW that he is there, but it just doesn't feel like it!
- E. The Book of Psalms show the Christian that things operate in cycles
 1. There are ups and downs, good and bad days, easy and hard times
 2. And our confidence - our faith - needs to be firmed up, and strengthened so that WHEN we do go through a cycle, we are ready for it!
- F. Wouldn't you agree that most often we are very ill prepared for the rough times? The low times? The silent days?
- G. David likes what he learns through this experience he is writing about, that he writes it to be sung by all believers – "To the chief Musician"
- H. When you start to learn about God's faithfulness, in spite of our failures, you will want to sing as well!

III. Message - Silent Again

A. David's Struggles (13:1)

1. David is in trouble somehow - not described
 - a. He was being hunted by king Saul and his army for 7 long years
 - b. He was run out of town by his own son Absalom
2. David is praying, and asking God the same question that he ends up asking dozens of times in the Psalms - "Why are you not doing anything about the trouble I am in?"
 - a. He has been here before – back in Psalm 10:1 "Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?"
 - b. Psalm 6:3 "but thou, O LORD, how long?"
 - c. Psalm 35:17 "Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions."
 - d. Psalm 89:46,47 "How long, LORD? wilt thou hide thyself for ever? shall thy wrath burn like fire? Remember how short my time is"
3. To David, God seems to "forget" that David is one of His own
 - a. He seems to have turned His face away from him
 - b. God seems to be "hiding!"
 - c. David feels like he has to remind God to get in motion.
4. David comes to a wrong conclusion – that God has abandoned him
 - a. This is a very dangerous way to think
 - b. It is a lie of a criminal to convince a child that his parent does not truly care for them
 - c. It is the lie of the devil to convince a Christian that God does not care about them and what they are going through!
 - d. When God does not immediately deliver us from our enemies, or help us out of an affliction; when God does not show his love, or supply his grace, or apply the blessings and promises of His covenant as He usually had done before...
 - e. That is when we are ready to conclude that He has forgotten us!
 - f. David accuses God of abandoning him "for ever!" – Time passes very slow when we are in sorrow!

B. David's Counsel (13:2)

1. But the troublesome situation is good!
 - a. No troubles are pleasant, but are most necessary.
 - b. Because it has brought David to his knees so that he is wrestling at the throne of grace (Heb 4:14-16), by faith, and not by fist alone! David is reviewing the promises of God, which have driven him to prayer!
 - c. David's troubles also have forced him to evaluate his own conclusions - he has been spending too much time "thinking" and not praying and trusting - wants better counsel than what his own heart provides
 - d. Principles:
 - 1) Don't trust your heart (Jer 17:9)
 - 2) Don't follow your heart - lead you away from God
 - 3) Don't trust your own understanding! Spending all your time trying to "figure" everything out will wear you out!
 - e. Sorrow is good sometimes (Eccl 7:3) – it sharpens our faith unlike anything else can (Ps 119:67)
 - 1) Forces us to become real – not putting on a show of laughter when we are crying on the inside
 - 2) Forces us to get away from everything
 - a) So that we open our Bibles, and read like we haven't read in a long time
 - b) And so that we pray like we haven't prayed in a long time
2. David is in a position of defeat – his enemy has the upper hand – David feels like the failure
 - a. He has concluded that his enemies seem to be winning, and will soon be singing about their victory over David's life – very humiliating!
 - 1) The devil seeks so much to conquer your confidence in God, and divert your path that you are on following the Lord
 - 2) Satan and his hordes yearn to sing of the defeat at of another Christian
 - 3) Don't give him the pleasure!!!
 - b. You had better learn to pray and get God to move on your behalf!
 - c. You see, David can only wait so long. He needs God to move and act decisively on his behalf

C. David's Prayer (13:3) - Prayer is asking - not just talking, even though that is good!

1. He calls God *HIS God* – very personal! Not just THE God, but "MY God"
2. He asks for God to **consider** his request – He asks with a "please?" - David can make no demands
3. For God to enlighten his eyes
 - a. Show David the way through the situation
 - b. Give David wisdom and understanding – show me what YOU see, God!
 - c. Or else David knows he is a "gonner", and his enemies will simply rejoice
 - 1) Thinking he has prevailed over a believer in God's truth
 - 2) Rejoicing to see David removed from God's will
4. Notice how death for the believer is connected with "sleeping"
 - a. You are not "gone" – your soul leaves your body
 - b. Your body, though in a grave, will wake up again one day

D. David's Conclusion (13:5,6) - His Confidence

1. That God's mercy will prevail
 - a. David trusts in God's MERCY, not just God's power
 - b. David knows he doesn't deserve anything from God's hand except judgment
 - c. David trusts that God is merciful to the merciful and meek and humble
 - d. He trusts that God will HAVE to work against his enemies because he is staying humble, and his enemies are the proud ones
 - e. RULE #1: Stay lower than your enemies, and you will always come out on top!
2. That God's salvation reaches beyond just sins and forgiveness, but deliverance from our enemy
 - a. I am delivered (saved) from sin's penalty - salvation
 - b. I am being delivered from sin's power - on a moment by moment basis (1Jn 1:7)
 - c. I will one day soon be delivered from sin's very presence
3. That even in the midst of great trouble, something inside him wants to sing, and he knows he must
 - a. Every Christian needs two books - the Bible, and a Hymnal
 - b. Every Christian should drop their pride and sing in worship of God (Ps 40:1-3)

4. Notice that through prayer - simple, honest, open-hearted prayer, David has seen the victory, even before he has experienced it! Now THAT is faith (Heb 11:1)
5. That's what Paul and Silas knew going into their prison cell in Acts 16:22-25.

IV. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. Is the Christian life always a constant ride with little or no change? NO
- B. Can a Christian be prepared and ready for the up and down cycles of life? YES
- C. Have YOU ever felt like God has forgotten about you, and left you to fend for yourself?
- D. Do you usually think right when you are alone and trouble is surrounding you?
- E. How can a troublesome situation be good for you?
- F. What does it mean to ask for God to enlighten our eyes?
 1. Show David the way through the situation
 2. Give David wisdom and understanding
- G. What can you be sure of when you pray in faith?
 1. That God's mercy will prevail
 2. That God's salvation reaches beyond just sins and forgiveness, but deliverance from our enemy
 3. That even in the midst of great trouble, singing is okay!
- H. Faith is simply seeing the WHAT, even before you have experienced it! VICTORY