

Summer In The Psalms II - #6 – Living In Awe

Psalm 4

Our Playlist for the Soul- Summer in the Psalms – leads us today to Psalm 4. What does God have planned for us this morning?

David invites us in to a difficult time in his life.

Things are bad. Dangerous. Depressing.

But once David turns his attention to God –

- his enemies fade.
- his heart steadies.
- his worship returns.
- his sleep comes.

Everything changes when God becomes bigger than everything else.

Our greatest need isn't more information.

- It isn't another political victory or an economic windfall..
- It isn't another self-help book.
- It isn't trying harder.
- It isn't even better circumstances.

Our greatest need is to know Jesus, and for those of us who do, to live in awe of God.

I. Two Addresses.

A. The first is heavenward – to God.

David begins with God! Vs. 1. That is where **we should always begin**, always turn, always run to!

- He **cries out to God**
 - He **calls on “O God of my righteousness” –**
 - The **only time in Scripture** this term/name is used!
 - **He comes to God not on the basis or merit of his own righteousness – His righteousness is in His God!**
- Jesus:** “no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” Jn. 14:6
- Paul** – “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 2 Cor. 5:21.

- He concludes: ***The God who has never let me down won't now!***

B. The second address is outward – to the “*sons of men*”. Vs. 2

1. His audience:

In context -

- Those who were **hunting him**
- Those hurting him by their **words and choices** – **Absolom had stolen the kingdom** and David is now a fugitive in exile – and *the people who should have known better and should have supported* David had **succumbed to Absolom's whisper campaign**

Broader application – “sons of men” vs. children of God. Humanity. Flesh. Those without God.

2. David's address:

- **How long...?** Frustration. Hurt – the personal attacks. They had sung his praises; now they were slinging mud
- **How long... Seek and sell out for the wrong things?**
Love vanity.
Seek after “leasing” – Old Saxon word – “*falsehoods*” - lies, deceptions...

The pursuits of those not seeing, seeking and serving God will always lead to disappointment and death.

Twice Solomon warned:

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25)

Selah. Stop. Meditate. Think about it. Let it soak in!

II. Answers. Vs. 3-4

A. Vs. 3 – “Know!” Absolute Truths in a troubling world.

B. Vs. 3 – “Stand in awe”

Awe isn't merely an emotion.

It's the consequence of a clear vision.

C. Vs. 3 – “Sin not”

Not just the traditional “do’s and don’t’s”

Sin: literally the root word means: “**to miss the mark**”

- **The Mark= Jesus!** God! His glory and essence. “Stand in awe!”
- **The Miss: Anything else:**

Whether we disobey, or become distracted with anything that takes His place, we “miss the mark” – SIN - in doing.

Cf. **Isaiah in Isaiah 6:1-8.**

David:

- Start with Him!
- See Him!
- Stand in Awe of Him!
- Sin Not!

Finally - Spend some **time in deep consideration** – middle of night, deepest places of your heart and mind. Be still... Respond!

Selah. Stop. Think. Let it sink in. Meditate.

III. Admonitions. Vs. 5-8

A. Response: ***Here is what you should do!*** Summary

1. **“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness”**

- Pointing them to “O God of my righteousness”, to the foundation of our relationship and hope: Jesus! The cross.
- **Choosing and living in the light of what He has done!**

Hebrews 13

15. ...*let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

16. *But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

2. **“put your trust in the Lord”**

B. Reasons: vs. 6-8 – *This is why you should do that!*

1. David's Probe: Humanity's question: "*Who will shew us good?*"

i.e.- *What is best for me? Where can I find what my heart longs for?
What is the real answer to life's questions?*

We have already seen the **false answers**...

David revisits the question of the human quest. Now, **he provides the answer**. This is not just powerful testimony; it is an invitation!

2. David's prayer – vs. 6 - "*Lord, lift up the light of thy countenance upon us*"

i.e.- The light of the face of God showing us divine favor and glory!

Old Hymn- "*Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me*"

Witnesses!!!

3. David's praise: vs. 7 – "*Thou hast put gladness in my heart*"

True gladness even in times of trouble

"more than *in the time that their corn and their wine increased.*"

Charles H. Spurgeon –

"Christ in the heart is better than corn in the barn or wine in the vat. Corn and wine are but fruits of the world, but the light of God's countenance is the ripe fruit of heaven."

The Psalmist wrote:

"thy lovingkindness is better than life." Psalm 63:3

"For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psalm 84:10

4. David's peace. Vs. 8

- Confidence and Choice: "*I will...*"
- Comfort – "*thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety*"

Unspoken but clear:

We cannot always choose our circumstances.
We can always choose our response.

David does not say:
My enemies disappeared.

He doesn't say:
Absalom surrendered.

He doesn't say:
Everybody apologized.

Nothing changed...
except David.

Then... he slept!

Our greatest need is to know Jesus, and for those of us who do, to live in awe of our God.

While our response may not immediately change our circumstances, it always changes us.

- I will know my Savior and stand confidently in His righteousness!
- I will stand in awe of Him!
- I will, by His grace, not sin. Not let anything good or bad – draw me away from Him!
- I will offer the sacrifices of righteousness
- I will trust in the Lord.

I can, by His grace, do all of that.
No circumstance can keep me from it.
He will do the rest!