

Psalms 34-35 “The Lord Delivers From All”

Let's look at chapter 34 for a few minutes here if you look at the title we get some specific information as we are told David is the writer and this took place when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech and this man is also referred to as Achish.

You can read about this over in 1 Samuel 21 but just to recap it briefly it was a tough time in David's life as he was on the run from Saul and when he came before the servants of this man they began to say of David that this was the man that had slain his ten thousands and David became afraid they would take his life and so as a response David had a lapse of faith and chose to pretend like he was crazy...and as he did so Achish or Abimelech as he is called in this title sent him away for he had no reason for madmen to be around him.

Let's see what David had to say if you look at verses 1-3 which say the following **I will bless the Lord at all times;**

His praise shall continually be in my mouth. ² My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. ³ Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.

Notice David says I will bless the Lord at all times...I kind of like that. We should bless the Lord always for He is good and gracious and kind and compassionate towards us...I think too that our mouths need to reflect the goodness of God continually. Perhaps we should examine our mouths and ask the Lord whether what comes from them meets this standard or not.

You and I should boast in the Lord as we go through life. I know He has done so much for me and I hope that I am able to point others to the Lord with my boasting in His goodness.

Notice too that those that are humble will hear of the goodness of God and be glad in it as well. To be humble is an incredible desire isn't it? We should strive for that in our lives.

Let's look at verses 4-6 which say the following **4 I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed. 6 This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.**

We've talked about this before but it's such a blessing to be able to seek the Lord and to know that He has heard us and notice it says the Lord delivered them from all their fears. Isn't it awesome to know the Lord hears us when we call to Him? Isn't it wonderful that the Lord will take our fears and give us peace?

In verse 5 it says that there was a radiance that came from their faces and I have to say that when someone is in the presence of the Lord and they are seeking Him there is often a radiance that is seen. Sometimes you can just tell someone knows the Lord as you speak with them.

And then notice David calls himself a poor man and the Lord heard him when he called out and the Lord saved him from all his troubles. David here shows great humility doesn't he? It's kind of like what Paul said when he said he was the chief of sinners and I suppose you and I

could say the same thing...that we are poor in spirit without the help of the Lord.

Let's take a look at verse 7 which says **7The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.** This is a truth that is a big blessing isn't it? Commentators suggest that the word angel is actually plural and it gives the idea that there are many angels around those that fear and honor the Lord. I suppose we could say those are like guardian angels and I do think that God certainly surrounds and protects those that fear Him properly.

When it comes to the fear of the Lord we should try to define that briefly for it shows up 4 times in our text. To fear the Lord means to revere Him, to respect and honor Him and a good definition for that is found in Proverbs 8:13 which says the following **The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.** If we truly have a reverence and respect for the Lord we are going to respect and honor what he hates...God is quite clear in what He approves and disapproves of in His Word and so we should have a great desire to seek out the truth that is found therein.

Verse 8 says the following **8Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!** Have you tasted and seen that the Lord is good? I believe as we seek after Him and the Lord works in our lives that He certainly does show us that He is good.

To taste and see that something is good means you have to interact with it and partake of it and bring it into your life and I just have to say today if you haven't tasted and seen that the Lord is good then you are

missing out big time. I don't really know how anyone can go through life without knowing the Lord.

I can't imagine my life without Jesus. I have seen the Lord is good so many times whether I be on the heights of the heavens or I be in the lowest of the valleys He has proven Himself over and over to me.

I would say today if you haven't tasted of the Lord that you should do so. Maybe the Lord has brought you here today and you are sitting here with an ache in your soul and a desire to be filled instead of empty. As you come to Jesus you'll see that He is good.

And then we are told that those that trust in Him will be blessed. I have to just tell you that you won't ever regret trusting in Jesus. I've been serving Him for some 25 years now and not for one moment have I thought to myself I wish I hadn't met Jesus.

Verses 9-10 say⁹ Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints!

There is no want to those who fear Him.

¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger;

But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

Here again we see the word fear twice in verse 9 and it really is a theme in the chapter that we should fear the Lord...Here we are told those that fear the Lord will not be in want and those that seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

You want security in life? You want to be blessed as you go through life? The first step and really the only step is making sure you fear and seek the Lord.

Verses 11-14 say¹¹ Come, you children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.¹² Who is the man *who* desires

life, And loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴ Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Now verse 12 is one I think we would all perhaps think is necessary when it asks who the man is that would see many days and see much good? And then we get the answer in verses 13-14 and first we are told it is those that keep their tongue from evil. To keep our tongue from evil is surely a hard thing isn't it? Over in the book of James we are told that the tongue can be both a blessing and a cursing...and that a perfect man is able to keep his tongue from error.

I want to just encourage us today that we need to have self control when it comes to our tongues. And I think our tongues and what we say can say a lot about who we are for it is from the heart that the mouth speaks.

We should also be careful to depart from evil and look to do that which is good...How are you doing with that? Do you allow evil in your life? Do you actively pursue what is good, righteous and holy?

Do you seek after peace and pursue it with others? We should be actively seeking out having peace with believers especially. We shouldn't leave things open-ended when there is a grievance. The Bible says if you have a problem you should go to that person and seek to find peace in the relationship.

Verses 15-16 say ¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.

**16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

For those of you that are righteous and really the only way to be righteous of course is to know the Lord Jesus you need to know that the eyes of the Lord are upon you and that His ears are open to your cries and that should be a great comfort to us all.

On the other hand we are told the face of the Lord is against those who do evil that they might be cut off from remembrance from the earth.

My question is if you had to choose which of these two categories to be which would you choose? Would you choose to be the righteous one that the Lord listens to or the evil one who is cut off from remembrance?

The reality is that you get to choose which category that you will find yourself in...And really the way to make that decision is to choose whether you will accept Jesus in your heart and be seen as righteous or you can reject Jesus and found to be evil.

The choice belongs to each individual but we need to know that what we decide about Jesus is going to make an eternal impact on our lives and our choice is going to make a direct impact on our everyday relationship with God.

Look at verses 17-18 which say **17 The righteous cry out,
and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.**

18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. When you have a broken heart you need to know that the Lord is near to you and His desire is to save you

and work in you. I hope you know that today. I know that life can have us in some difficult spots and if you just think about David when he wrote this he was in a pretty bad spot in his life as he probably had just come out of the situation that he feigned as though he was insane.

Perhaps today you are like David and you are just broken from a situation that has happened in your life. Maybe you goofed and you are feeling busted up from a failure in your life...I want you to know when you run to Jesus He will indeed forgive you and work in your life and He will restore you as well.

I think sometimes in our failures we stay away from the Lord and we can have this sense of dread as if God doesn't want anything to do with us...That's so untrue, when you know you have failed the very best thing you can do is apply 1 John 1:9 to your life which says ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He is near to those that are broken, He hears those that are righteous and so really you need to be walking in truth and staying near to the Lord and you can be assured that He is constantly working on your behalf.

Look at verses 19-22 which say ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.

²⁰He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.

²¹Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. ²²The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

Well this is hard news to hear isn't it? The afflictions of the righteous are many. You and I will not get a free pass as we go through life. I

know the health and wealth doctrine likes to say that if you just name it and claim it that it will be yours but the Bible speaks very differently doesn't it?

The Bible makes it clear that believers are surely at times going to face trials and difficulties as they go through life. It's just part of living in a world that is fallen isn't it?

And yet we are told here that the Lord delivers him out of them all and you know not all trials are short ones are they? There are times that people pass through trials that will endure right on to the end of their lives but the beautiful news is that those trials will not last forever for once we pass from this life to the next we will be in eternity with our Lord.

The Lord has a way of watching over the righteous...He keeps us from evil often times, He manages to take what is bad and make it good once again, though the world may come against us we shall stand in His grace.

And then that last phrase of the last verse is a beautiful one isn't it?

None of those that trust in Him shall be condemned. Romans 8:1 says **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** How awesome it is that the Lord has set us free, that we have no worries when it comes to a right standing with God...Though the world will condemn us our Lord stands with us, even when we go through things that may find us to be less than perfect.

And then we come to Psalm 35 which is what is called an Imprecatory Psalm and to just define what that means it means to utter or curse

someone or come against them...and really what we see here in this Psalm is David asking God to deal with his enemies.

Now some of us may read this and we may say “Lord what David is doing does not seem to really line up with what the scriptures say about loving our enemies and praying for those that persecute us as seen in the NT.” And on the surface I would agree with that but let me just give you some food for thought before we get into this.

Paul had this to say about a man whose name was Alexander who was a coppersmith in 2 Timothy 4:14-15 which says ¹⁴**Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.** ¹⁵**You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.**

Then later on in the book of Revelation 6:9-10 we have the following which says this ⁹**When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.** ¹⁰**And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”**

In both of these scriptures we have New Testament believers asking God or declaring that God should get those that have acted against them.

We might even think of the words Jesus taught the disciples to pray when He said “Let your kingdom come and your will be done” If you think about it you are asking God to come and deal with the wickedness that takes place in this world, you are asking God to

establish righteousness and tear down strongholds and even judge those that are wicked and against the cause of Christ.

I want to just ask a question...if you hear someone is distributing drugs and you know people are being killed by it what is the proper thing to ask of God? Should we say “Oh Lord have mercy on them and Lord we are just going to love them or are we going to pray Lord please deal with them, allow them to be caught, let them be arrested, let them face judgment that others might live.”

You might also consider that David is the king of Israel, the one that God had chosen and worked in mightily...and there were people coming against him as this Psalm unfolds and when the king or leader of what God is doing is come against it is going to effect all those they oversee...The congregation and even the leader should be crying out to God to deal with those that are coming against them that those they are leading might experience freedom and peace.

I won't lie that there have been times I have asked God to deal with my enemies...But I also just like David leave that in the Lord's hands...The Lord will take care of business as He sees fit, not the way I see fit...and yet I feel full freedom in the Lord as I spend time in prayer to just express my thoughts and feelings and even ask the Lord to handle situations that are unjust and even unfounded.

So let's see how this unfolds here if you look at verses 1-3 which say **this Plead my cause, O Lord, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me.**

²Take hold of shield and buckler, And stand up for my help. ³Also draw out the spear, And stop those who pursue me. Say to my soul, “I am your salvation.” We aren't sure when this happened in

the life of David. It could have been during the times that Saul was after him and it very well may have been the time that his own son had run him out of the kingdom and was desiring to take his life.

In any case David here mentions that there were those who were striving with him and fighting against him and he simply asks the Lord to be the one to fight on his behalf.

Apparently, David felt helpless in the situation. For all his military might and wisdom, at this point he is at the end of Himself.

And so he asks the Lord to take up his cause...He asks the Lord to take up the shield and buckler and stand as his help and that the Lord would draw out the spear and stop those that came after Him.

It's not wrong to ask the Lord for help especially if you have those that may be coming against you...and we will see as this Psalm unfolds that David in his own estimation had done nothing deserving of what he was receiving.

We can also see here that David needed to hear from the Lord...He probably felt very alone as he went through this and he came to this place that he said to the Lord "Please fight for me" and he requests of the Lord that He would speak to the deepest parts of his heart by reminding him about the salvation that is found in the Lord...David needed to be comforted and at the end of the day there is no greater comfort for you and I than to know that the Lord is our salvation, that He is with us and that He is for us. The world may be against us but if the Lord is for us we have nothing to fear.

Look with me at verses 4-6 which say **4 Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor Who seek after my life;**

**Let those be turned back and brought to confusion
Who plot my hurt. ⁵ Let them be like chaff before the wind, And let
the angel of the Lord chase *them*. ⁶ Let their way be dark and
slippery, And let the angel of the Lord pursue them.**

Here we can see David is asking the Lord to handle his enemies in a way that brings shame and dishonor upon them as they seek to take away his life. So we can see here that it wasn't just that they were against David in word but also in deed as they were going so far that they wanted him dead.

David asked the Lord that they would be like chaff in the wind and that the angel of the Lord might chase after them and that their way might be dark and slippery.

Essentially David is saying "Lord please go get them, let their plots come to nothing, let their plans be turned back upon themselves." It might even remind us of what happened with Joseph as his own brothers came against him...At the end of his life Joseph said "You guys meant it for evil but God meant it for good." David was hoping for a similar result.

Look at verses 7-8 which say **⁷ For without cause they have hidden their net for me *in* a pit,**

Which they have dug without cause for my life.

⁸ Let destruction come upon him unexpectedly,

And let his net that he has hidden catch himself;

Into that very destruction let him fall.

David here plainly says “Lord they have no real reason to be against me how they are as they plot against me and look for my demise and even look to take my life.”

Notice in verse 7 it says they had hidden **THEIR** net and then in verse 8 it says “let sudden destruction come upon **HIM** unexpectedly.” It would seem that perhaps there was a ring leader, one person that had started all this trouble for David and while David is asking for general deliverance and help from the Lord he also asks the Lord to take care of that one person and allow the net that he has hidden catch himself.

It’s amazing really how much trouble one person can cause. This person that David is speaking of here must have been an influential person to be able to garner so much attention and a following. Be careful that one person doesn’t pull you away and cause you to go down the wrong path. Before you know it you can find yourself on the wrong side of things.

Verses 9-10 say ⁹And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; It shall rejoice in His salvation. ¹⁰All my bones shall say, “Lord, who is like You, Delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, Yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him?”

It’s almost like David is rejoicing in the finished work that he expected the Lord to do on his behalf and notice it would go all the way to his bones as he said of the Lord “Who is like you as you deliver the poor from those that are too strong for them.”

I’m so thankful the Lord stands up for those who are his no matter what their status in life is. He stands up for those that are overlooked

in life, He stands up for those that are in situations of injustice...The Lord can and does deliver those that simply seek after Him and live for Him.

Verses 11-12 say ¹¹ **Fierce witnesses rise up;**

They ask me things that I do not know.

¹² **They reward me evil for good,**

To the sorrow of my soul.

There were even those that rose up against David and asked him questions that he didn't know the answers to...In other words the words of those against him couldn't be responded to. It may have been that David refused to stand up for himself or vindicate himself in the situation and it may be that no matter what David said he knew that the opposing side wouldn't listen anyways.

We are told here that David was rewarded evil when he did good. It would seem that whoever this was or whomever it was at one time were recipients of the blessings of David and his life, there may have been a close friendship that had gone south and then suddenly those he cared about were there stabbing him in the back.

It sure can hurt when people come against you when they should be with you. It happened to our Lord when one of those closest to Him betrayed Him.

Look what else David said in verses 13-14 which say ¹³ **But as for me, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth;**

I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart. ¹⁴ I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother. Kind of

amazing really that David had done much good on their behalf. When this person or this group of people were sick what did David do? Did he go on about his life and ignore them or forget about them? On the contrary he actually mourned with them and humbled himself and fasted and he would pace about as he thought of them as a friend or brother and he bowed down heavily as one that mourns for his mother.

In other words David had gone out of his way to minister to the very individuals that were coming against him. You would think those individuals would be thankful and grateful and loyal in response to the fact that David had done such things for them but look at the result that is seen in verses 15-16 which say

¹⁵ But in my adversity they rejoiced And gathered together; Attackers gathered against me, And I did not know it; They tore at me and did not cease; ¹⁶ With ungodly mockers at feasts They gnashed at me with their teeth.

The moment David was down or there were those that came against him his adversaries piled on.

While David showed mercy and ministered to those around him they quickly turned against him and looked to have him removed.

It says they tore at me and did not cease and it gives the idea that this was a sustained attack that came on the life of David...It wasn't just one or two days but a relentless assault that came upon him.

His enemies would even gather together at feasts and they would gnash their teeth at him...It would seem there was an awful lot of slander taking place against David, an awful lot of gossip and complaining against a man who in this case had only looked to love those around him.

Surely this reminds us of Jesus...He was often misunderstood, people turned on Him and said all kinds of false statements and yet at the end of the day Jesus laid down His life anyways that all might have the chance to come to know the Father. I like what Romans 5:8 says when it says ⁸**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Verses 17-19 say ¹⁷**Lord, how long will You look on?**

Rescue me from their destructions, My precious *life* from the lions. ¹⁸**I will give You thanks in the great assembly;**

I will praise You among many people. ¹⁹**Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies;**

Nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause.

David here just pleading with God to bring the situation to an end...Have you ever had a time like that in your life that you just wanted whatever trial you were in to be over? That's how David was here just pleading with God to deliver his life from the lions that surrounded him.

And then he says that when the Lord does deliver him that he would give praise among many people meaning he would be sure to let everyone know that the Lord was the great deliverer of his life.

He then says Lord don't let those who are wrongfully my enemy rejoice over me, don't let them wink their eyes who hate me without cause...What David is saying is "Lord their reasons for coming against me don't make sense, they don't have a right understanding of what is happening, they can't seem to understand Lord that the motives of my heart are pure and right."

Verses 20-21 say ²⁰ For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful matters Against *the* quiet ones in the land. ²¹ They also opened their mouth wide against me, And said, “Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen *it*.”

Those that came against David didn't seek peace but instead they devised deceitful matters against the quiet ones meaning they came against those that were just trying to mind their own business, they opened their mouths against David saying they had seen things.

Verses 22-25 say ²² This You have seen, O Lord; Do not keep silence. O Lord, do not be far from me. ²³ Stir up Yourself, and awake to my vindication, To my cause, my God and my Lord. ²⁴ Vindicate me, O Lord my God, according to Your righteousness; And let them not rejoice over me. ²⁵ Let them not say in their hearts, “Ah, so we would have it!” Let them not say, “We have swallowed him up.”

David simply says “Lord you see it all, please God don't keep silent on this matter, don't be far away from me Lord, Please come to my aid and vindicate me and that word vindicate means to clear someone of blame or suspicion...In other words make it obvious Lord that I have done no wrong.

He then says Lord don't let them rejoice over me and please don't let them swallow me up.

David was in a pretty tough spot, it would seem his very life was in jeopardy and yet where did he turn to in trouble? Did he rely on his own strength? Did he try to talk himself out of the situation or justify

himself? Instead, this was a man that brought his concerns before the Lord and simply laid them before Him.

I want to encourage you if you find yourself in a place like this that you work to be like David. Trust that the Lord will work on your behalf. Trust that He will take care of the enemies that wrongfully come against you. Trust that He even in the worst of situations can bring about good.

Remember the Word teaches that trials and tribulations will come and yet the Lord can work in and through them purifying your life and helping you to become more like Him.

And I want to just point out that for David...God did work on his behalf for we know he died of old age. So whatever this was the Lord allowed the plots of the enemy to fail and David I am sure gave thanks to the Lord just as he said that he would.

Look at verse 26 which says

²⁶ Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion

Who rejoice at my hurt;

Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor

Who exalt themselves against me.

One last plea from David that those who came against him would be put to shame and brought to mutual confusion as they rejoice at his hurt. So sad that there are times that those who are serving God will find themselves in the very situation David is right here in his life.

Perhaps today you find yourself in that place with your family...all you do is try to love them and serve them and help them to see Jesus and

it seems everything you do just ends up being more fuel for the rage that they have against you.

You may even find this in ministry as you seek to honor and follow Jesus and bless others...and then suddenly you have a crowd against you.

May the Lord comfort you if you find yourself there today and may you continue just like David to cry out to the Lord leaving it all in His hands to sort through and work out on your behalf.

Look at verses 27-28 which say this ²⁷ **Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually, "Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."** ²⁸ **And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness And of Your praise all the day long.** And then in closing David makes mention that it wasn't everyone that was against him...it may have felt like that for David but when he looked around there were a faithful few that had his back.

As the Lord worked on his behalf and helped him through the situation those that supported David would in turn end up magnifying the Lord and they would see that God took pleasure in David and prospered him in all that he did.

David himself also said that he would personally speak of the righteousness of God and would praise the Lord all the day long. Even in trial and tribulation as the Lord brought him out he would be sure to let everyone know it was the Lord and His goodness that had done this on his behalf.

You know sometimes the Lord I believe puts us in situations that we would never want to be in and he will put us in a place that we have no hope and we have no strength and really we won't even be able to stand up for ourselves.

And then suddenly as only the Lord can He can bring the plots of the enemy to nothing and he can vindicate his servants and as that servant of God is liberated they surely do thank and praise the Lord for His goodness.

Let me pray for us in closing.

Psalms 34-35 “The Lord Delivers From All”

Chapter 34

Verse 7

Proverbs 8:13

Verses 17-18

1 John 1:9

Verses 19-22

Romans 8:1

2 Timothy 4:14-15

Revelation 6:9-10

Chapter 35

Verses 15-16

Romans 5:8