

Sermon 66: Finding God's Comfort in Our Desperation: Psalm 54:1-7

Psalm 54:1-7 "To the chief Musician on Neginoth, Maschil, A Psalm of David, when the Ziphim came and said to Saul, Doth not David hide himself with us?> Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah. Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul. He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in thy truth. I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good. For he hath delivered me out of all trouble: and mine eye hath seen his desire upon mine enemies..."

Summary: Our God is a mighty deliverer who personally works in our lives for our good.

Proposition: He wants us to flee to Him in our desperation.

Introduction: What will motivate us to do this?

Part 1: David's context: Prescript "When the Ziphim came and said to Saul, Doth not David hide himself with us?"

- **There are two situations where David was betrayed by the men of this region:**
 - **1 Samuel 23:**
 - **1 Samuel 26:**
- **In both situations, God delivered David from Saul's hand:**
- **This betrayal was personal, because Ziph was in Judea:**
- **It revealed personal alignment against God's plan:**
 - **Jonathan understood God's plan: 1 Samuel 23:16-17** "And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David...and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth..."
 - **God chose David not Saul: 1 Samuel 16:1** "And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons..."

Part 2: David's concerns:

- **The structure of Psalm 54:** Chiasm
 - **A1: Deliver me: 54:1** "Save me..."
 - **B1: Be attentive to my prayer: 54:2** "Hear my prayer..."

to take them. But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land. Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines..."

- **He is righteous and will do what is right: 54:5** "He shall reward evil unto mine enemies..."
 - **Personal:** David was being unjustly hunted by his jealous father-in-law.
 - **National:** God sent Samuel to anoint David as the rightful King.
 - **Redemptive:** David was appointed by God to become a central figure in His redemptive plan.

Part 4: David's confidence:

- **Passionately Expressed:**
 - **He is my helper: 54:4** "God is mine helper..."
 - **He is with my advocates: 54:4** "The Lord is with them that uphold my soul..."
 - **He will execute justice: 54:5** "He shall reward evil unto mine enemies"
 - **I will continue to worship: 54:6** "I will freely sacrifice unto thee:"
 - **I will continue to praise: 54:6** "I will praise thy name..."
- **Properly Grounded:**
 - **God's name: 54:1** "Save me, O God, by thy name... (6) I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good..."
 - **In the Old Testament, a name was more than a general identifier.**
 - It told a story about a person.
 - It identified their character.
 - It memorialized their reputation.
 - It predicted their future.
 - **Examples:**
 - **Abraham: Genesis 17:5** "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee..."
 - **Isaac: Genesis 21:4** "And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac...And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me...And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age..."

- **Jacob: Genesis 32:27-28** "And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed..."
- **God's names were ascribed to memorialize His character and ways:**
 - **El Roi: The God who Sees: Genesis 16:13** "And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?"
 - **El Shadai: The Almighty God: Genesis 17:1** "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect..."
 - **Jehovah Jireh: The LORD who Provides: Genesis 22:14** "And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen..."
 - **I AM that I AM The Eternal Self-Existent One: Exodus 3:13-15** "When I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM...Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.
 - **Jehovah Rapha: The LORD who Heals: Exodus 15:26** "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee..."
 - **Jehovah Raah: The LORD who Shepherds: Psalm 23:1-2** "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want..."
 - **The LORD of Sabaoth: The LORD of Hosts: Psalm 46:7** "The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge..."

- **Jehovah Tsidkenu: The LORD our Righteousness: Jeremiah 23:6** "In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS..."
- **Yeshua: The LORD our Saviour: Matthew 1:21** "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins..."
- **His testimonies: 54:7** "For he hath delivered me out of all trouble: and mine eye hath seen his desire upon mine enemies..."
 - **David knew the history of his people: Psalm 19:7** "The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple..."
 - **He also knew from personal experience: 2 Samuel 5:12** "And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake..."

Part 6: Final Thoughts: We should flee to God in our desperation

- **Because we know His names:**
 - He sees us in our troubles.
 - He is almighty.
 - He does not change.
 - All creation is at His disposal.
 - He provides for us in our troubles.
 - He shepherds us through those troubles.
 - He heals us after our troubles.
- **Because we are on His side:**
 - He is our righteousness
 - He is our savior.
- **Because we have learned by experience: 2 Corinthians 1:7-10** "And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation. For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us..."