Sermon 72: The Wisdom of Humble Trust: Psalm 60:1-12

Text: Psalm 60:1-12 "O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again. Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh. Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment. Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah. That thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand, and hear me. God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth. Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver; Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe: Philistia, triumph thou because of me. Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom? Wilt not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off? and thou, O God, which didst not go out with our armies? Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies…"

Introduction:

- **Three comforting promises:**
  - **Psalm 18:30** "As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him…"
  - **Psalm 46:1** "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble…"
  - **Psalm 121:2-3** "My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber…"
- **Do you believe that these scriptures are true?**
  - If so, then how do you know?
  - They must be put to the test.
  - That kind of test will mean temporary pain and vulnerability.

Summary: No matter our strength and prosperity, self-reliance will always disappoint.
Proposition: We must embrace humble trust in God's merciful care.
Interrogative: How can we do this?

First: Learn from history:

- **Psalm 60 is a vivid reflection on a specific period of David's life:** "Michtam of David, to teach; when he strove with Aramnaharaim and with Aramzobah, when Joab returned, and smote of Edom in the valley of salt twelve thousand…"

    - **Michtam:** The Psalm was a memorial to teach the nation a specific lesson learned during a national crisis.
    - **Aramnaharaim**: The region between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers commonly referred to as Mesopotamia.
    - **Aramzobah**: A powerful kingdom located north of Damascus in modern day Syria.
- **It is documented in 2 Samuel 7-8 and 1 Chronicles 17-18.**
- **It was complicated:** "When Joab returned, and smote of Edom in the valley of salt twelve thousand…thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased…"
- **Psalm 60 was written at a point of military dominance when Israel was a united nation:**
    - David successfully secured its borders, which never happened during Saul's reign.
    - His heart was in a healthy place despite God restraining his desire to build the Temple.
- **That dominance and prosperity was not absolute, and this Psalm memorializes an important life lesson.**
    - David's troops were fighting to secure their northern borders.
    - While they were engaged in the north, Edom attacked vulnerable civilians in the south near the Dead Sea.
    - He quickly deployed Joab and Abishai to counter the devastating attack and they secured a decisive military victory:
        - **The initial defeat under Joab:** 12,000 soldiers
        - **The full campaign attributed to David's army:** 18,000 soldiers
- **This attack shook Jerusalem and David personally:**
    - **Edom and Moab were neighbors.**
    - **They were in constant conflict:**
        - **Numbers 20:** Edom used military force to keep Israel from passing through their land.
        - **Numbers 22-25:** Moab hired Balaam to curse the people as they were entering the Promised Land.
        - **Judges 11:** During the times of the judges, there was constant struggle between these nations.
        - **1 Samual 14:47:** Saul fought with them to secure his borders.
    - **They were technically kinsman:**
        - Edom descended from Esau, Jacob's brother.
        - Moab descended from Lot, Abraham's nephew.
    - **The intrusion was a massive security breach:**
        - David's troops were 400 miles away.
        - Jerusalem was a few days march from the Valley of Salt.
- **God's covenant was their only hope: 60:6-8**

- **He Promised Abraham a specific region: 60:6**
  - **God gave this land:** "God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice…"
  - **The inheritance covered both sides of the Jordan River:** "I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.
- **The promise was detailed: 60:7** "Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver…"
- **These enemies were fighting God and would not prevail: 60:8** "Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe: Philistia, triumph thou because of me…"

- **Lesson 1:** When God's word is tested, He proves His faithfulness.

Second: Process struggle scripturally:

- **Psalm 60 has three distinct elements:**
  - **First: It expresses pain but not without hope: 60:1-4** "Thou hast shewed thy people hard things…"
    - **Cast down and scattered: 60:1** "Thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased…"
    - **Terrified and vulnerable: 60:2** "Thou hast made the earth to tremble…hast broken it: heal the breaches…"
    - **Astonished and reeling: 60:3** "Thou hast shewed thy people hard things…made us to drink the wine of astonishment…"
    - **One banner of hope: 6:4** "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee…"
  - **Second: It expresses faith-filled supplication: 60:5-8** "Save with thy right hand, and hear me…"
    - **A desperate prayer: 60:5** "Save with thy right hand, and hear me…"
    - **A steadfast trust in God's promises: 60:6** "God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice…"
  - **Third: It teaches practical wisdom: 60:9-12** "Give help from trouble for: For vain is the help of man…"
    - **We learn His presence is our only hope: 6:10** "Wilt not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off? and thou, O God, which didst not go out with our armies? Give us help from trouble…"
    - **We learn our best efforts fall short: 6:11** "Vain is the help of man.
    - **We learn triumph only comes by His mercy: 6:12** "Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies…"

- **Lesson 2:** When the godly suffer, they instinctively turn to God for comfort and deliverance.

Third: Apply godly wisdom: 60:11 "Give help from trouble for: For vain is the help of man…"

- **Immediate Applications:**
  - David was a vulnerable king, ruling a vulnerable people who apart from God's constant protection were defenseless.
  - There are no exceptions to that principle.
  - He was never stronger, yet he was still vulnerable.
  - God permitted them to get a glimpse of that weakness by allowing military defeat.
  - He did not explain all the reasons why, yet He had reasons and some of those reasons are accessible to David and his people.
  - He wanted them to grow, learn, and live with a humble dependence upon Him.
- **Personal Application:**
  - **Application 1: Guard your heart against self-reliance:**
    - **Let Him shape how you plan for your future:**
      - The values that shape your plans.
      - The means you purpose to use.
      - The end you desire
    - **Approach the process humbly.**
    - **Always hold your plans gently.**
  - **Application 2: Guard your heart against bitterness:**
    - His ways are higher than ours and what He is doing is bigger than we can fully grasp.
    - Resist the temptation to doubt His wisdom and goodness.
    - Humbly submit to what he is doing in your life.
    - Accept that what He allows, He uses to impart wisdom and growth.
  - **Application 3: Reject the most dangerous form of self-reliance:**
    - **Everyone will stand before God some day: Acts 17:30** "God…now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness…"
      - If you are not ready, there are no second chances.
      - Do not allow yourselves to have any confidence in your own righteousness.
      - Trust in Christ alone.
      - Repent and believe in the gospel.

Closing: Let's prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ redemptive work!