

Sermon 71: Trust and Praise out of Sorrow: Psalm 59

Text: Psalm 59:1-5 "Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men. For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul: the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O LORD. They run and prepare themselves without my fault: awake to help me, and behold. Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah..."

Introduction:

- **Ephesians 6:12-13** "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities...Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day..."
- This morning we will have the opportunity to look into a man's soul as he runs for his life and wrestles with painful, personal injustice.
- He will live as a fugitive for the next decade of his life before his circumstances radically change.
- While on the surface, selfish ambition and unprincipled opportunists seem to be the ultimate cause of this injustice, we will see a deeper struggle between two Kingdoms working itself out in these lives.

Summary: We must set our hearts to trust and praise God when we have been unjustly targeted, because He is a faithful and merciful God.

Interrogative: How do we do this?

Truth 1: Cry to God in innocence: 59:1-5 "Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me...They run and prepare themselves without my fault: awake to help me, and behold..."

- **David's immediate circumstances:** "When Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him..."
 - **He was a young faithful servant: 1 Samuel 18:30** "David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul..."
 - **Saul's hatred was personal and unjustifiable: 1 Samuel 19:2-6** "Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good... he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?"

- **Saul wanted to kill David, not just drive him away: 1 Samuel 19:10-11** "And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin...and David fled, and escaped that night. Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning..."
- **Summary:**
 - David was unquestionably in the right.
 - Saul feared David because he knew that God was with him.
 - Saul's own children made several attempts to protect David.
 - Saul was fighting against God's plan for Israel's future:
 - **1 Samuel 15:26** "Samuel said unto Saul...thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel..."
 - **1 Samuel 15:28-29** "The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine...also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent..."
 - Those who aligned with Saul were aligning with the wrong king in opposition to God's revealed purpose for His people.
 - Satan exploited Saul's lust for temporal power and the lust of the people near him to resist God's will for David, the nation, and even His plan of redemption.
- **David's foes had the following qualities:**
 - **"Workers of iniquity:"** They were masters of evil because it was a way of life.
 - **"Bloody men:"** They were murderers who were known to shed innocent blood.
 - **"They lie in wait for my soul:"** They were predators closely watching David to exploit his vulnerabilities.
 - **"They run and prepare themselves:"** They were not reluctantly following orders with a conflicted conscience.
- **David was innocent:**
 - **"Not for my transgression:"** He had not committed treason or rebelled against the king in any way.
 - **"Nor for my sin:"** He had not failed to do his duty in any way.
 - **"Without my fault:"** There were no legal grounds for Saul to hunt him because he had not broken any laws.
- **David's petition:**
 - **"Deliver me:"** Quickly snatch me away from this ambush.
 - **"Defend me:"** Make it physically impossible for them to reach me.
 - **"Awake to visit:"** You appear to be inactive, so rise out of that inaction and vindicate my innocence.
 - **"Be not merciful:"** Do not hold back what is due in this situation.

Truth 2: Cry to God for justice: 59:6-13 "Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defense..."

- **He understood his personal limitations: 59:9** "Because of his strength will I wait upon thee..."
 - David was a valiant warrior, but he felt defenseless against Saul.
 - Even as he ran, Saul relentlessly pursued him for nearly ten years.
- **He rested in God's covenantal care: 59:9-10** "God is my defence. The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies..."
 - **God's power comforted him: "A defense"** is a high tower out of the enemies' reach.
 - **God's character comforted him: "Mercy"**
 - He has promised and committed Himself to His people.
 - He loves us and this love is enduring.
 - He actively defends us and shows His faithfulness.
 - **God's consistency comforted him: "Prevent"** means that God would go before him to preserve and defend him.
 - **God's promise comforted him: "God shall let me see"** He would witness the resolution to the problem.
- **He did not want deliverance to become a detriment: 59:11** "Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield..."
 - **We only know what we know: Job 42:3** "Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not..."
 - God knows what is and what will happen
 - He knows what would happen if He permitted things to happen that never will happen.
 - We only know what is happening, not how something will unfold.
 - We do not know why something is happening.
 - These limitations should cause us to hear Job's wisdom:
 - **He did not want personal vengeance:**
 - He had two opportunities to kill Saul, yet he refused.
 - He wept bitterly when Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle at the hand of the Philistines.
 - He dealt kindly with Abner, Saul's general after the conflict.
 - He refused vengeance on the people aligned with Saul.
 - **He wanted God to deliver in a way that left a permanent impression on him and the rest of the people.**
 - He wanted the threat to be destroyed.
 - He knew that lives would be lost in the process.

- It wasn't personal for David.
- It was about God's glory and the best resolution possible in a messy situation.
- **He wanted God's deliverance to establish an undeniable witness that God is in charge: 59:13** "Let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth..."
 - **Undeniable**
 - **Timeless**
 - **Universal**

Truth 3: Sing praise to Him while you wait: 59:14-17 "I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble..."

- **Some perspective:**
 - It took ten years for David's circumstances to be reversed and his kingdom to be established.
 - Those years were not wasted years that crippled him and left him broken.
 - They made him a strong capable leader who was unquestionably God's choice to lead the nation.
- **His attitude while he waited:**
 - **He sang of God's power: 59:16** "I will sing of thy power..."
 - **He sang of God's promises and faithfulness: 59:16** "I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning..."
 - **This song was connected to experience: 59:16** "Thou hast been my defence and refuge..."
 - **Past struggles had prepared him for his immediate trials: 59:16** "In the day of my trouble..."
 - **He sang to God for the strength supplied to endure while he waited: 59:17** "Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing..."
 - **God consistently intervened to preserve his life: 59:17** "God is my defence..."
 - **These moments were reminders of God's faithfulness: 59:17** "The God of my mercy..."
- **Stated another way:**
 - **Psalms 130:1-6** "Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD...I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning..."
 - **Romans 8:25-26** "If we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we

ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered..."

Applying the Passage:

The personal component:

- **Realize the true nature of your personal struggles:** Like David, your personal struggles are more than physical difficulties and the people you encounter.
- **Live with sincerity:** Eliminate your own contribution to these struggles or Satan will exploit your inconsistency.
- **Be on the right side of what God is doing in the world:** You cannot stop Him from doing what He has purposed to do, so submit to Him in the process.
- **Have an unwavering confidence in God's goodness:** He knows the whole picture perfectly so choose to trust Him with the unknown.
- **Accept the fact that it takes time for God to work out His purposes in our lives:**
 - He does not waste the time we are called to wait.
 - He uses these seasons as a tool to shape and build us.
 - He has the full picture from beginning to end.
- **Understand the difference between doubt and unbelief:**
 - **Doubt** is weakness that we experience as we choose to take God at His word though we still have unanswered questions.
 - **Unbelief** is the choice to rebel against what God has said, and to refuse to take Him at His word.

The redemptive component:

- **A positive resolution was an inescapable part of the gospel:**
 - **Romans 1:3** "Jesus Christ our Lord, was made of the seed of David according to the flesh..."
 - His humanity came from Mary, a direct descendent of David through Nathan.
 - His legal right to the throne came through His guardian Joseph a direct descendent of David through Solomon.
- **While Saul was consumed with envy and a lust for power, Satan exploited those fleshly passions to resist God redemptive plan.**
- **The cross is the single greatest testimony to God's faithfulness:**
Acts 2:22-26 "Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope..."