

Text: Psalm 55:1-23

Title: *In Dependence*

Date: 7.30.23

READ Psalm 55:1-15

- 1 Give ear to my prayer, O God,
and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!
- 2 Attend to me, and answer me;
I am restless in my complaint and I moan,
- 3 because of the noise of the enemy,
because of the oppression of the wicked.
For they drop trouble upon me,
and in anger they bear a grudge against me.

- 4 My heart is in anguish within me;
the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
- 5 Fear and trembling come upon me,
and horror overwhelms me.
- 6 And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest;
- 7 yes, I would wander far away;
I would lodge in the wilderness; *Selah*
- 8 I would hurry to find a shelter
from the raging wind and tempest."

- 9 Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues;
for I see violence and strife in the city.
- 10 Day and night they go around it
on its walls,
and iniquity and trouble are within it;
- 11 ruin is in its midst;
oppression and fraud
do not depart from its marketplace.

- 12 For it is not an enemy who taunts me—

then I could bear it;
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—
then I could hide from him.

- 13 But it is you, a man, my equal,
my companion, my familiar friend.
- 14 We used to take sweet counsel together;
within God's house we walked in the throng.
- 15 Let death steal over them;
let them go down to Sheol alive;
for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart.

I. Knowing the Lord provides an outlet for anguish. (1-15)

A. Faced by an enemy, he pleads for mercy. (1-3)

B. Anguished in heart, he cries out for escape. (4-8)

C. Surrounded by violence, he appeals for deliverance. (9-11)

D. Wounded by betrayal, he longs for justice. (12-15)

2 Corinthians 1:8-9: For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

18 The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, 19 then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. Deut 19:18-19

Sheol: "the grave"

"At the end of my tether there is a place called Prayer." Alec Motyer

READ Psalm 55:16-23

- 16 But I call to God,
and the LORD will save me.

- 17 Evening and morning and at noon
I utter my complaint and moan,
and he hears my voice.
- 18 He redeems my soul in safety
from the battle that I wage,
for many are arrayed against me.
- 19 God will give ear and humble them,
he who is enthroned from of old, *Selah*
because they do not change
and do not fear God.
- 20 My companion stretched out his hand against his friends;
he violated his covenant.
- 21 His speech was smooth as butter,
yet war was in his heart;
his words were softer than oil,
yet they were drawn swords.
- 22 Cast your burden on the LORD,
and he will sustain you;
he will never permit
the righteous to be moved.
- 23 But you, O God, will cast them down
into the pit of destruction;
men of blood and treachery
shall not live out half their days.
But I will trust in you.

II. Trusting the Lord brings safety for the soul. (16-23)

- A. He hears when you call. (16-17)
- B. He redeems you in safety. (18)
- C. He sustains you through burdens. (22a)
- D. He stabilizes your soul. (22b)
- E. Be assured he is faithful. (19-21)
- F. Trust that he is just. (23)

Isaiah 59:1: Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

Romans 10:13: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Safety: Shalom: peace, harmony of relationships and the absence of war

HI: The Lord meets dependence with deliverance.

READ Mark 14:32-36

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." ³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Luke 22:47-48

While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Here is what Jesus promises: READ Matthew 11:28-29

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.