

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

BIBLE STUDY – “Lord, It Is Time”

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 119:121-128 NIV

“¹²¹ I have done what is righteous and just; do not leave me to my oppressors. ¹²² Ensure your servant’s well-being; do not let the arrogant oppress me. ¹²³ My eyes fail, looking for your salvation, looking for your righteous promise. ¹²⁴ Deal with your servant according to your love and teach me your decrees. ¹²⁵ I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes. ¹²⁶ It is time for you to act, Lord; your law is being broken. ¹²⁷ Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold, ¹²⁸ and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path” (Psalm 119:121-128).

I. Key Words:

- A. Patience
- B. Impatience

II. Background:

- As we continue in this next section of the Psalm, we find the psalmist is still surrounded by his enemies, but now we catch a hint of impatience on his part.
- He tells the Lord it is time for Him to be up and doing.
- We may smile at that, because we have often told the Lord much the same thing.
- We get impatient with God and wonder why He doesn't work when we think He should and the way we think He should.
- We forget that God's ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts.

III. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis #1: His Call to God (v. 121-124)

A. It isn't fair! (v. 121)

- 1) “I have done judgment and justice.”
- 2) In other words, he is saying that he has done that which was right.
- 3) Now it was time for God to do what was *right*.
- 4) There are those times when we grow impatient with God when we fail to look at the *big picture*.
- 5) If we only look at the immediate situation, it may seem that the wicked lifestyle is the way to go (Psalm 73:3).
- 6) But when we look at life from an eternal perspective, we come to a different conclusion (Psalm 73:17).
- 7) He says, “God, don't leave me here!”

B. It is time for You to act (v. 122).

- 1) “Be surety for Thy servant for good.”

- 2) *Surety* means to offer security in a bargain or agreement.
 - 3) The psalmist is calling on God to come and get involved in his situation.
 - 4) We can be sure he did not appeal to God in vain.
 - 5) The whole idea behind God's plan of salvation is in focus here.
 - a. He is our sole hope of heaven.
 - b. He is our unfailing resource in life.
 - c. Nothing delights God more than when we take Him at His Word and come directly to Him and tell Him how dependent we are on Him.
- C. He cried out to God for grace and mercy.
- 1) "Mine eyes fail for salvation."
 - a. Like Robinson Crusoe as he climbed to some vantage point on his lonely island to scan the far horizons in search of a sail.
 - b. The psalmist has staked everything on his Lord's assurances.
 - c. God simply cannot let him down.
 - d. He wants God to act in grace in delivering him, and he really has no doubt that He will.
 - 2) "Deal with Thy servant according to Thy mercy."
 - a. The psalmist needed to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the inner man.
 - b. If God was going to make him go on waiting for the redemption of His promise, then he needed to be fortified within by the Word of God.
 - 3) Although impatient, he remains teachable.
 - 4) Folks, I don't have it all figured out yet, do you?
 - 5) We better remain open that God might continue to prepare and teach us His ways.

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: His Confession and Commitment (v. 125)

- A. "I am Thy servant."
- 1) The word *servant* used here is much stronger than how we use it today.
 - 2) It meant *to be a slave*.
 - 3) Literally a purchased possession.
 - 4) As such, God has the right to demand our unquestioning obedience.
- B. "Give me understanding."
- 1) He wasn't asking, "Why?"
 - 2) Be he sought to better understand God.
 - 3) The way we know God is through His Word.
- C. "That I may know Thy testimonies."
- 1) That should be our request.
 - 2) That God would give us understanding that we might know Him better through His Word.

3. Lesson Emphasis #3: His Complaint (v. 126a)

- A. "It is time for Thee, Lord, to work."
 - 1) How presumptuous for us to think we can tell God when He ought to go to work!
 - 2) Or worse than that, we presume to tell Him what He should do!
 - 3) We forget that He is a sovereign and almighty God.
- B. One thing that we can be assured of is that God will work.
- C. However, we have no control over when and how He will accomplish His will.
- D. We can rest assured that what God does will be right and will always be for our best.

4. Lesson Emphasis #4: His Contrast and Conclusions (v. 126b-128)

- A. "They have made void Thy law."
 - 1) This is the basis for the requested action from the psalmist.
 - 2) The wicked have *made void* or totally disregarded the Word of God.
 - 3) Now, God will judge the wicked, and the basis for that judgment will be the Word of God.

"He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).
- B. "I love Thy commandments above gold."
 - 1) What a magnificent claim.
 - 2) The psalmist staked his claim in God.
 - 3) What he coveted most was not the wealth of the world, but the wealth of the Word.
 - 4) Can we make such a claim?
 - 5) Is the Word of God more important to us than what this world has to offer?
- C. "I esteem all Thy precepts concerning all things to be right."
 - 1) That is another great statement.
 - 2) When the Bible says something – that settles it, and the Bible is always right.
 - 3) "Let God be true and every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).
 - 4) If what someone says contradicts what the Bible has to say, then they are wrong, and the Bible is right.

5. Conclusion

- There may be times when we find ourselves, like the psalmist, becoming a bit impatient with God.
- When God doesn't act in the manner that we expect Him to, we need to realize that it isn't God who needs to change.

- We need to seek more understanding from God's Word and focus our attention on who God is rather than on what He does or does not do.
- Do we know Him as we should?

IV. Make it happen:

1. Why has the psalmist grown impatient (v. 121-122)?

2. What does the psalmist want God to do (v. 123-124)?

3. What should we do, when God does not respond when we think He ought to respond (v. 125)?

4. What was the psalmist's complaint, and why (v. 126a)?

5. What wealth comparison does the psalmist make in vs. 126b-128?

V. Follow the Spirit:

- What will I do as a result of this lesson?
