

Psalms 11-15

Jesus

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

Tempted by Easy

1 In the Lord I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"? 2 For look! The wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. 3 If the foundations are destroyed, **What can the righteous do?** 4 The Lord is **in His holy temple,** The Lord's **throne is in heaven;** His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. 5 The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. 6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup. 7 For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.

- **Friends** see hard times coming for David....give him advice

Run. God wants you to be happy. Run away when things get tough
That's not David and that's not us

- **Well-meaning friends/family can be used by Satan...**

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| 1. Mrs. Job | Curse God and die... | Gift of encouragement lacking |
| 2. Peter | You don't have to suffer | Not seeing the greater good |

Godly Men/Women throughout time understood

No Cross/No Crown. No Suffering/No Sanctification. No Trials/No Triumph. No pain/No gain

- **Friends** Fly away from suffering like bird?
- **David** Why do you tempt me to take easy way/not the Father's will?

Psalm 56:11 [David] In God I have put my trust I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

If God's people don't stand firm in trial who will?

Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered and no one was there...

- **Lord sits in His Holy Temple:** He sees/Unmoved/Got this
- **Hard stuff is part of His plan to build me....**

The Lord tests the righteous...

- **Lord tested Abe:** Sacrifice the son I promised would bless the world
 1. **Friends' advice?** I thought Isaac was Promised child? Counterintuitive. Stupid.
 2. **Abraham Choice:** Obey the Lord w/out fear. God provided a substitute
 3. **A+ on Test:** Trusted God more than anything/anyone/more than logic...

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, **offered up Isaac,** and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was **able to raise him up,** even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

- **Lord tested Sarah:** Obey your husband

2x Abe asked Sarah to say she was his sister before pagan kings so they would not kill him and take her as their wife. **Sarah obeyed.** They took her anyway, but God protected Sarah

1. **Friends Advice?** Bail. Flee....Abe's only interested in saving own skin
2. **Sarah's Choice:** Obey lying Abe w/out fear
3. **Grade A+ on Test:** Trusted in God. Not feelings/friends. Walked faith not sight

1 Peter 1:5b [As other OT godly women were] submissive to their own husbands **6 ...Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.**

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

The Lord tests the Righteous No limits to our growth/intimacy when we trust Him when it's real hard

IOWs What are you going to do when it gets hard... flee as a bird? In times of trouble will we take the advice of well-meaning friends/family who say what we want to hear with advice intended to bring temporary relief...**or will we obey God,** do the hard thing and receive Eternal Reward, Spiritual Growth, Great Victory and finally even a Crown?

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who **endures temptation;** for when he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

We will never be blessed by fleeing like a bird...

2 Timothy 4:6 [No regrets] For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness,** which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Psalm 11 David Tempted by Easy

Psalm 12

Jesus

To the Chief Musician. On an eight-stringed harp. A Psalm of David.

Who are we listening to?

1 Help, Lord, for the **godly man ceases!** For the **faithful disappear** from among the sons of men. 2 They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips and a double heart they speak. 3 May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, And the tongue that speaks proud things, 4 Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; Who is lord over us?" 5 "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, Now I will arise," says the Lord; "I will set him in the safety for which he yearns." 6 The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. 7 You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them

from this generation forever. 8 The wicked prowl on every side, When vileness is exalted among the sons of men.

- **David:** 8-String Guitar.

Faithfull are disappearing/Wicked are flourishing
David recognizes the state of the people by what he hears...

- **Our Spiritual Condition is obvious** by what comes out of our mouths

Matthew 12:34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks...**36** But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

- **Idle Words:** Vanity, emptiness, nothingness. Rt. Devastation, waste

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

- Flattering Words/Lying Words/Proud Words...**David feels all alone**

God's Instruction?

Stop listening to the idle words of the enemy and listen to My pure unadulterated Word

- **Enemy never shuts up**/We must shut him down
 1. **Condemnation:** Pushes us away from God and is from Satan
 2. **Conviction:** Draws us to God and repentance and is from God

The Word of the Lord is pure.

2 Samuel 22:31 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

Psalms 119:140 Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

Even as wickedness increases exponentially... I will preserve you as you trust in Me

- **What feeds/breeds wickedness?** Acceptance/Promotion of evil from leaders...

The wicked prowl on every side
When **vileness is exalted** among the sons of men.

- Judges, Politicians, Presidents/Prime ministers no better but don't care or fear

Romans 1:32 ... who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

- **Saved from this putrid**, rotting, lonely lawless world...

2 Peter 2:7 [God] delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by **seeing and hearing their lawless deeds**)— 9 then **the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out** of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment...

- How are inmates running asylum? Perverse prancing through White House/Military?

When vileness is exalted among the sons of men
The wicked prowl on every side

- Promotion of evil is empowering of evil. Welcome to our current state

Psalm 12 David. Who are we listening to?

Psalm 13

Jesus

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

Trusting in the Dark

1 **How long, O Lord?** Will You forget me forever? **How long** will You hide Your face from me? 2 **How long** shall I **take counsel in my soul**, Having **sorrow in my heart** daily? **How long** will my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and hear me, O Lord my God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep the sleep of death; 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved. 5 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. 6 I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

- **David:** Fear to Faith to Rest to Victory
- **David's Question:** How long Lord 4x [here from different direction]
 1. v1 **Will you never** remember me again?
 2. v1 **Will you never** allow me to see you face again?
 3. v2 **Will I always** be left talking to myself?
 4. v2 **Will I always** be a loser?

Job 13:24 Why do You hide Your face, And regard me as Your enemy?

- **vv 3-4 David's Petition/Rationale**
 1. Consider my existence
 2. Give light to my fading eyes

Psalm 139:11 [David] If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The **darkness and the light are both alike to You.**

3. Don't let my enemy boast when he sees me losing
 4. Don't let my enemy rejoice when I'm knocked off balance
- **v6 Fear to Faith to Rest to Victory:** Heart and Mind turned to God

1. **I have** trusted in Your mercy
 2. **I now** rejoice in Your salvation
 3. **I will** sing after you hear me and deal bountifully w/me
- Humbled by walking in the dark for a while...

Job 42:10 [Lord finishes testing Job to know his heart] And the Lord **restored Job's losses** when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job **twice as much as he had before.** 11 Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the Lord had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold. 12 Now the **Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning...13** He also had seven sons and three daughters. **...15** In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. 16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. 17 **So Job died, old and full of days.**

Job 13:24 [Previously] Why do You hide Your face, And regard me as Your enemy?

Our feelings regarding the closeness of God do not always represent reality

David: How long O Lord? **Lord:** I have always been here David

Psalms 13 David. Prayer of Faith. Trusting in Darkness

Psalm 14

Jesus

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

Man's Philosophy vs God's Truth

1 The fool has said in his heart, "**There is no God.**" They are **corrupt**, They have done **abominable works**, There is none who does good. 2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the Lord? 5 There they are in great fear, For God is with the generation of the righteous. 6 You shame the counsel of the poor, But the Lord is his refuge. 7 Oh, that the **salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!** When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

- **Godless Philosophy leads to:** Corrupt Lives/Abominable Works

Root of godless philosophy is Pride.
Man is all there is. Getting better all the time?

Psalm 10:4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; **God is in none of his thoughts.**

- **God's Truth...**

1. None who do good/understand/seek Him
2. All have turned aside/All became corrupt **when Adam/Eve fell**

Aside from Jesus all men are Born Dead
When we put our faith in Jesus His Spirit makes us alive for the first time

Ephesians 2:12 And you *He made alive*, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once **conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the others. ⁴ **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His **great love** with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were **dead in trespasses, made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Born Dark/Dead/Hating until we receive God's Light/Life/Love

Ephesians 5:8 For **you were once darkness**, but now you are **light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!

- **Paul quotes David in Psalm 14:** Puts to rest those who would cast of Israel forever

Romans 11:25... blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When **I take away their sins.**"

Psalm 14 Man's Philosophy vs God's Truth

Psalm 15

Jesus

A Psalm of David.

Who May Dwell with the Lord?

1 Lord, **who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?** **2** He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; **3** He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; **4** In whose eyes

a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

Psalm 24:3 [David] Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

- **So, if I do all these things I can go to heaven?**

How good do you have to be to dwell with God in Heaven?
How would David rate on his own checklist to go to Heaven?

- Adulterer/False-Witness/Murderer? 3/10 big ten so far.

James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

- **Q.** If I do all these things I go to heaven.
- **A.** No, if you're going to heaven you do all these things

Q. What must I do to be saved? **A.** Be born-again

- **Previous Psalm**

1. None who do good/None who understand/None who seek Him
2. All have turned aside/All have become corrupt when Adam/Eve fell

We all surely died. **But God** saved us when we were utterly helpless
We now have no excuse not to live righteously

- **We have His Spirit:** Sanctifying us/Glory to glory.
- **Save from the penalty of sin. Free from the power of sin**

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, **but now you are light** in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Q. How much of Jesus life-giving Spirit do you want?
A. How much are you willing to empty of self?

- **Sanctification:**

1. Not sinless but sinning less
2. Not saved by works but saving faith works
3. Growing from Glory to Glory

2 Peter 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**, to **virtue knowledge**, 6 to **knowledge self-control**, to **self-control perseverance**, to **perseverance godliness**, 7 to **godliness brotherly kindness**, and to **brotherly kindness love**. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in

the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you are doing growing in Christ, you won't be worrying about you Salvation

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but **in deed** and in truth.

James 1:21 ...lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the **implanted word**, which is able to save your souls. 22 But **be doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Disobedient Christians begin to question their Salvation

1 John 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but **perfect love** casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

- **Perfect Love:** God's love **in us** displayed **in real actions** to others

We are to live as Jesus lived in this world loving others w/God's love
No fear of judgement because we know we are pleasing God

Not about losing Salvation but losing our footing. [NJC]

v5 **He who does these things shall never be moved.**

Psalm 15 Who May Dwell with the Lord?

A. Those who have been made alive by the Spirit of God