

Psalm 16 – Standing in Slippery Places – Sermon 1 (v1-3)

Intro:

1) Story of Paul Sperry and the topsider shoe

- a. Paul Sperry found the key to what it takes to stand in slippery places

2) How many of us know that the fallen world we live in is a slippery one?

- a. Easy to slip into bad influences
- b. Easy to slip into sinful habits and strongholds
- c. Easy to get on a life path that leaves you fallen and broken
- d. Bible:
 - i. Prov. 24:16 - ¹⁶For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.
 - ii. Prov. 28:14 - ¹⁴Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

3) Question with asking – “How can we stand in such a slippery world and not fall?”

- a. I believe Psalm 16 holds some key principles to unlock a life that is steadfast and unmovable
- b. As Paul Sperry noticed his dog and sound a way to stand on slippery surfaces, so we are going to look at Psalm 16 and notice how to stand in this slippery world

4) Psalm 16 facts

- a. Psalm 16 is a psalm of confident trust in God, giving hope even beyond the grave
 - i. Psalm 16 is like a “journey in confidence”
- b. One of the top 3 Psalms quoted in the NT
 - i. Psalm 110, Psalm 22, Psalm 16
- c. Considered an “Easter” Psalm, or Messianic Psalm – Peter cites it as prophecy concerning Jesus’ resurrection – Acts 2:24,25
- d. Psalm was written at an unknown time in David’s life when he felt hard-pressed and facing opposition
 - i. Applicable to many times in his life
- e. Outline
 - i. David’s Commitment – V1-3
 - ii. David’s Contentment – V4-8
 - iii. David’s Confidence – V9-11
- f. Notice subtitle – Mitcham
 - i. Complete meaning unknown but many scholars have suggested “golden”
 - ii. Root – Ketem – fine gold, pure gold
 - iii. This indicates that the title presents this Psalm as valuable, precious, and golden
 - iv. Interesting – gold and fine gold are different
 - 1. Fine gold has been refined through fire
 - 2. David is “facing the fire here” and comes out with some fine gold truths

5) Main verse of Psalm 16 is verse 8

- a. Set – placed
- b. Before – in front of – positioned
- c. Always – constantly, regularly, daily – translated perpetually
- d. Moved – slip, fall, bring down
- e. Here's how to keep the slippery world you live in from devastating your life

6) First principle we find in Psalm 16 is found in the first 3 verses

- a. To stand in slippery places you need a conscience Recognition of your relationship with God
- b. Sermon: Recognition of my Relationship
- c. Text: Psalm 16:1-3

Place of Safety (v1)

- 1) David opens this Psalm in a prayer that recognizes God as his true Source of safety**
 - a. Notice what he cries out – V1

- 2) All throughout the Psalms, we see David, in prayer, recognizing God’s ability to provide safety**
 - a. Ps. 3:3-4,8; Ps. 4:8; Ps. 5:11; Ps. 6:4; Ps. 7:1; Ps. 11:1; Ps. 12:1
 - b. David had made a habit of running into the arms of God for safety

- 3) Let’s breakdown his request**
 - a. Preserve
 - i. To watch, guard, to keep safe, to place a hedge of thorns
 - ii. A term David was experientially familiar with
 1. Term applied to explain what a shepherd does when he watches over sheep or cattle
 2. David grew up watching over his sheep and keeping them from danger – 1 Sam. 17:34-36
 - iii. Here David is asking God to watch over him with the care and concern of a shepherd
 - b. Q- Why did David have such an expectation of Divine preservation?
 - i. “For in thee do I put my trust”
 - ii. David knew that God was his true and ultimate place of refuge
 - iii. Put my trust – to flee and take refuge in
 1. Military term – imagery of a soldier crouching low behind his shield
 2. Soldiers running into a stronghold for safety
 3. In other words – this petition reveals where David found his security
 - iv. David was trusting God to fulfill His promises regarding His people
 1. Psalm 15:5b

- 4) Pause here and address one of our biggest struggles in life – where do you run when you’re on the run?**
 - a. When life is stressful, how do you comfort yourself?
 - b. When fearful circumstances arise, or things seem out of your control, how do you get a grasp on your anxieties?
 - c. When someone or something fails you and hits you deep within your identity and you feel at a loss or unanchored, where do you go to find significance, meaning, worth, or peace?
 - d. When you face obstacles to your hopes and dreams, what would you say to fill the blank – “if only_____”

5) Here is verse 1, we come face to face with the reality that to be unmovable, God must be your place of Safety

- a. Notice who David runs to – God – El
 - i. Title indicating and emphasizing power/might
- b. In other words David is clarifying who has the power over his struggles and security

6) Fascinating – David was a man you would think felt safety often

- a. Strong man, capable of his own defense
 - i. As a teenager, he brought down the Philistine warrior giant
 - ii. Great general leading his people into many victories over the enemy
 - iii. Capable diplomat as he sat on the throne of Israel
- b. As king – he would have been guarded by the best, most skilled warriors
- c. He lived behind the hedge of Jerusalem's walls
- d. "If there was ever a man who could take care of himself, it was David." – James Johnston

7) Q- Why then did David feel compelled to run into the preservation of God

- a. Why pray for God to be his Guard and Security
- b. Truth– David knew the inadequacy of material answers in a spiritual world

8) David found refuge in Who his God really is

- a. "in **thee** do I put my trust"
 - i. In who? – God, the Mighty Powerful One
- b. In other words, David knew his God was able
 - i. Able to part waters, destroy enemies, provide in wilderness, deliver from the threats, bring victory over the giants
- c. Put trust – Qal perfect tense – indicates a completed action, a state of being
 - i. This is where I am based on Who You are

9) "There are approx. 45 references to God as refuge in the book of Psalms alone."

- a. God desires you to know that He stands ready to protect and provide

God is to be your Place of Safety

Position as Sovereign (v2)

1) Verse 2 is a proclamation of God's position in David's life

- a. David is submitted to God's Sovereignty
 - i. Interesting position for a mighty king

2) Point out the names David uses here for God

- a. Notice – David uses two different titles for God here
- b. LORD – YhWh – proper name of God, personal name, covenantal name, named used in connection to God's relationship with the nation of Israel
- c. Lord – Adonay – Lord, Master, Owner, places a focuses on authority
- d. This tells me that David did not abuse the grace and mercy of God
 - i. Yes, he was in covenant, but God is still his authority

3) It's easy to slip into a disobedient life when you fail to recognize God as Savior AND Sovereign

- a. Remember God save...from What
 - i. Not only from hell, but from a sin saturated life
 - ii. Rom. 6:18

4) David goes further and proclaims that God is the Source of goodness

- a. V2b
- b. Basically, my goodness is not beyond You
 - i. No goodness "additional" to God
 - ii. God is the definer of what good is
 - iii. Ps. 119:68

5) What this verse teaches us is God is the Source and Sum of all David's satisfaction

- a. Apart from God, David understood he had no good thing
 - i. Interesting for a wealthy king – image all that David had access to

7) Fascinating – you'll notice that although David is facing some issue, some struggle, some opposition in life, some hard time, this Psalm doesn't contain any complaints

- a. It's not that raising concerns over your struggles to God is sinful, but here we get a picture of David being so enraptured by the goodness of God, that his struggle is dwarfed
- b. Truth – having a good God doesn't mean you won't face hard times, it means that in the hard times you still have a good God
 - i. God is omnipotent to work all things out for His glory and your good

- 6) I find this statement unique because it is such a “counter-cultural” truth
- a. God’s authority and God’s satisfaction is counter-cultural
 - b. What does the world try to communicate to you regarding God’s goodness and authority?
 - i. God is not really good
 - ii. God is restricting and no fun
 - iii. But, here we read the opposite
 - c. God’s goodness doesn’t end up in brokenness the World’s goodness does
- 7) Here you have a king, who materially “has it all” but recognizes the insignificance of it all compared to God
- 8) Q – is God my Everything or my somethings?
- a. If God is your Everything, He will be in everything
 - b. If Jesus is your All, then it impacts all

Recognize God’s position as Sovereign

Passion for the Saints (v3)

1) David's supreme delight is in God, but his secondary delight was in the people of God

- a. V3
- b. David loved God's people

2) Key words in verse 3

- a. Saints – sacred, consecrated, dedicated to God
 - i. People who, like David, pursued God and the things of God
- b. Excellent – noble
 - i. Interesting, David had the delight in knowing many “nobles”, but he still counted God's people as the noblest
- c. Delight – desire, pleasure
 - i. Does it please you to be around the people of God?

3) Truth – when you've got God in your heart, you'll have the heart of God

- a. Toward the mission – lost people
- b. Toward the members – church family
- c. It would have been easy for David to not view the people around him as worthy
 - i. He was king, they are not
 - ii. Yet – he understood they too were recipients of God's goodness
 - 1. LORD - covenantal people

4) Fact – loving God's people is hard

- a. Notice this phrase – “in the earth”
 - i. Opposite of “in heaven”
- b. This means these saints still struggled with living in the fallen world
- c. Q- how do I love the people of God who still struggle in a sin-fallen world?
 - i. Have Godly expectations toward the people of God
 - 1. You are not the Holy Spirit – you can't change the heart
 - 2. Saturate them in God's Word
 - 3. Remember they are a work in progress no matter what stage
- d. Notice in the preceding Psalm a key aspect of the person who is not moved – V4

5) Why is passion for the saints vital in keeping upright in this world?

- a. God placed you in community to build up each other and bear each other's burdens
 - i. Gal. 6:1
- b. Prov. 11:14; 13:20
- c. There is a special anointing of God when there is unity of the saints
 - i. Ps. 133

6) Q – Are the people of God “too Christian” for you?

- a. Are they nobles in your sight?

Recognize, we are called to have a passion for the saints

Closing**1) We live in a slippery world – we need standing power**

- a. Ps. 16:1-3 gives us 3 truths to recognize in our lives TODAY
 - i. God is to be our Place of Safety
 - ii. God is in the Position of Sovereignty
 - iii. We are to have a Passion for the Saints

2) Song

“Living below in this old sinful world,
Hardly a comfort can afford,
Striving alone to face temptations call,
Where could I go but to the Lord?

Where could I go, where could I go.
Seeking a refuge for my soul.
Needing a Friend to help me in the end,
Where could I go but to the Lord?”

3) Challenge – there are many places you “could” go – but where “should” you go?