

## Psalm 16:5,6 – Standing in Slippery Places – Remember His reign

### Intro:

#### **1) Kayaking story**

- a. Need to roll because many obstacles and features will flip you and push you
- b. To stay upright, you need to know how to roll
- c. Rolling does not come as a natural reaction
  - i. Natural reaction is “need to breath”
- d. Rolling involves 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost the MINDSET and not skill
  - i. Panic, fear, instant reaction is not your friend

#### **2) The kayak roll is similar to life**

- a. Many obstacles and different currents will push you and flip your life upside down
- b. Our natural reaction is not always the best thing
- c. Like kayaking, the battle is first won in the mind

#### **3) Psalm 16 is about staying upright in a world that tries to flip you over**

- a. Psalm 16:8 – key verse
- b. Michtam of David – a golden Psalm
- c. There are certain “golden” principles that keep you upright in this world

#### **4) Psalm 16:5.6 – third principle that arises here:**

- a. It is vital to pause and remember Who God is and What God can do in your life and with your circumstances
- b. Key word – Remember
  - i. V1-3 – Recognize
  - ii. V4 – Reject
  - iii. V5-6 – Remember
- c. Last week – V4 – we learned what David says no to
- d. This week – V5,6 – we hear what David says yes to

#### **5) In V5,6 we read how David classified a “good” life**

- a. Spoiler – a life in which God is at the center

**6) As we peer into these verses we are stepping into David's personal testimony of trust and satisfaction in God**

- a. These verses are not the language of chance, nor is it the speech of someone who feels uncertain about the future
  - i. Rather – David uses vivid imagery and figurative language to describe the great spiritual inheritance we as believers have in God
- b. These verses force us to confront some golden truths about our thoughts towards God
  - i. Specifically – His Sovereignty, Security, and Sufficiency

**7) As we approach this text – we aren't just reading David's words of satisfaction – we are being invited to examine our own hearts to ask some important questions**

- a. Is the Lord enough for me?
- b. Do I see my relationship with Him as a great inheritance?
- c. Am I still trying to be satisfied by chasing the "lesser" things of life?

**8) How does what I remember affect my relationship with God?**

- a. Sermon – Remembering His Reign
- b. Text: Psalm 16:5,6

**Remember – God is Sovereign over my Situations – V5a**

**1) The word Sovereign by definition means: to possess supreme or ultimate power**

- a. What that means Biblically – no situation is above or beyond God, even though, from an earthly perspective, it may seem so at times
- b. Summary on Sovereignty
  - i. Psalm 115:3
  - ii. Sovereignty means – God is not reacting to history, He is directing it
    - 1. Nothing happens outside of God’s knowledge, permission, or plan
    - 2. Even when humans make choices, God weaves those choices into His greater plan (Gen. 50:20)
  - iii. 3 statements that express God’s sovereignty:
    - 1. God rules, God knows, God directs
- c. God’s sovereignty does two things in our lives:
  - i. Brings comfort – nothing surprises Him or overrules Him
  - ii. Brings Humility – He is King, we are not
    - 1. Isa. 45:6 – “<sup>6</sup>That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else.”

**2) Q - Why are we talking about God’s sovereignty?**

- a. Ans – The phrase David uses at the opening of V5 manifests God’s sovereignty over David’s situation
  - i. V5a
- b. This phrase expresses the affirmation that David knew his God was in control

**3) What the beginning phrase of V5 implies is that David was facing some sort of struggle which, from an earthly perspective, brought his very inheritance into question**

- a. David faced many situations that challenged his very inheritance in life
  - i. Both as a shepherd boy and a great king
    - 1. Lion and bear
    - 2. Goliath
    - 3.
    - 4. Multitude of enemies
- b. It is believed that this portion of the text was written in reflection to a certain distress he faced with Saul
  - i. 1 Sam. 26:19
  - ii. “David’s share was in the farms and fields of Bethlehem but so long as Saul sat on the throne there was no hope he could enjoy his inheritance.” – John Phillips
  - iii. Yet David gives this affirmation about his real inheritance in life

## 1. V5a

**4) What's fascinating here about this phrase is that the wording is reflective of God's provisions for the Tribe of Levi and the priesthoods inheritance**

- a. Numb. 18:20; Josh. 13:14
- b. The priesthood did not have the security of their own tribal area, rather they relied on God's provisions
  - i. Using this OT Promised Land phrase, David is claiming that close and intimate relationship that only came from nearness to God's presence

**5) David knew that his physical inheritance was nothing compared to resting in the sovereignty of God**

- a. Notice what David proclaims here about the LORD:
  - i. "Portion of mine inheritance" – God not only gave David his portion in life, but God Himself is David's portion in life
  - ii. "Of my cup" – synonymous with allotment – God is what he has in life
    - 1. Cup – ancient custom, at feasts, that each person would be given an allotment of meat on the plate and drink in the cup
- b. "His portion, referring to the inheritance a father leaves his son, and cup, or the goodness a host offers his guest, refer to the full life that he enjoyed in the Lord." – Steve Lawson

**6) Takeaway – We cannot allow the struggles of this world to interpret God's allotments on my life**

- a. He is ultimately in control and what I have is given by Him
- b. Key perspective – You can enjoy the blessings, but you are called to worship the Blesser
  - i. Illustrate – gift for son – I want him to enjoy it, and it's right for him to thank me

***Remember – God is Sovereign over your Situation***

**Remember – God is the Source of your Security – V5b**

- 1) **The end of verse 5 gives rise to interesting imagery which points to the security God alone offers**
  - a. V5b
  - b. Maintain – take hold, grasp, to hold secure
    - i. Translated – retain, take hold, uphold
  - c. Lot – allotment
  - d. In other words, David’s allotments in life were secure because the Lord was his God
    - i. Interesting statement given the situation that prompted this Psalm
  
- 2) **Statement - David knew there was a Supernatural Defense over his life because God was his**
  - a. We see this over and over again in David’s life
    - i. Lion and bear – 1 Sam. 17:37
    - ii. Goliath – 1 Sam. 17:37
    - iii. Enemies – Ps. 20:7
    - iv. Saul – 1 Sam. 26:12
  - b. Time after time after time David experienced God’s hand of deliverance holding him secure
  
- 3) **This proclamation of David was an expression of confident trust in God**
  - a. In other words - David anticipated God’s security in his life
  
- 4) **The language David uses here points back to when Joshua divided the land between the twelve tribes after the Canaan conquest**
  - a. Each tribe was given its *portion* of land by *lot* with clear boundary *lines* and the land was to be their *inheritance* – Josh. 19:49
  
- 7) **Yet, This phrase explicitly reveals David’s true trust of wealth and security**
  - a. In the Ancient Near East, power, land, and family legacy defined your “lot” in life
    - i. The “lot” or land was vital in Bible times
      1. Status, economics, agriculture – all items of “security”
  - b. Yet, David flips the script here – He reveals that his “lot” is not tied to wealth, allotments, or borders – but to God Himself
    - i. Understand - This would have sounded radical in a land where the gods were often tied to geography
  - c. David’s affirmation here was a declaration that his God was not bound by soil, but rather He is God everywhere, all the time

**8) We could say - David knew he had a better inheritance than simply the land in Bethlehem**

- a. David looked above all the material securities of life to the One who truly maintains his lot
- b. “True security does not come from property and possessions, but from knowing God and living in His presence” – James Johnston
- c. Listen to how David describes this approach to life – Ps. 27:4

**5) David committed the defense of his life into the hand of God**

- a. 1 Sam. 26:7-10
- b. Truth - One of the most liberating realities of a relationship with God is when you rest in His security

**6) Sometimes when things come at you and you feel wronged, it's easy to have a knee jerk reaction and “take matters into your own hands”**

- a. Yet, that typically ends poorly

**7) Here we learn, if you are going to stand instead of being brought down, you must:**

***Remember - God, not you, is the Source of your Security***

**Remember – God is Sufficient for my Satisfaction – V6**

- 1) **Verse 6 is an amplification of verse 5**
  - a. V6
- 2) **Understand, it is likely that David was a fugitive, running from Saul, when he was writing this down**
  - a. No home to go to
    - i. Moss was his mattress, the cave was his shelter
- 3) **Begs the question - How then could David say what he says in verse 6**
  - a. This was an expression of satisfaction and faith
  - b. Because God was David's Sovereign and Security, David was satisfied knowing God's promises would come to pass
- 4) **Remember – David was anointed to be king of Israel**
  - a. 1 Sam. 16:12,13
  - b. David may not currently be resting in pleasant places, but because of the Word of God, David knew pleasant places were coming
  - c. Let me put it this way – David was driven by God's Word, not the enemies pressure
- 5) **The language David uses here expresses the custom of measuring out land**
  - a. "lines are fallen" – measurement is allocated
    - i. God spoke it, it will be
  - b. Because David was resting on God's promises, notice how he viewed his situation
    - i. "pleasant places" – sweetly sounding, indicates music and singing
    - ii. "goodly heritage" – delightful property
- 6) **David is satisfied, amidst a trying time, because he rested not in the world's situation, but in God's sufficiency**
  - a. David was pleased because of God's promises
- 7) **There is a lot of uncertainty in this world, a lot of lies, a lot of let down – pick up a news paper**
  - a. As followers of Jesus, we rest not in the voice of the world, but rather in the Word of God
    - i. Psalm 119:89-92

**8) Old Hymn by Russell Kelso Carter – standing on the promises**

- a. “Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises, I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit’s call, resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.”

**9) If you’re going to stand in the world without being brought down, you must:**

***Remember God is sufficient for your satisfaction***

**Closing****1) I wonder how many of us tonight feel like you are under water, upside down, just trying to get a breath**

- a. Like the river of life has tossed you
- b. You might say like some – I have even been brought down

**2) Pause, calm down, and Remember**

- a. God is the Sovereign over your situation
- b. God is the Source of your Security
- c. God is Sufficient for your Satisfaction

**3) This passage is a great picture of the Gospel**

- a. David’s focus here was on what he has because of WHO gave it
- b. The greatest blessing God can give us is Himself
  - i. If we do not have that, it matters not what else we have
- c. God Himself is the One Great Blessing that makes all other things he gives worthwhile
  - i. He gave Himself to us in Jesus – Mark 10:45
- d. This text is a reminder that those who trust Jesus can save with David – The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance