

Psalm 16:4 – Standing in Slippery Places – sermon 2 – Rejecting the Right things

Intro:

- 1) Psalm 16 gives us truths on how to stand in slippery places**
 - a. V8
- 2) Story – slip and fall @ 404 Kenyon Ave.**
- 3) Has anyone ever had an experience like that?**
- 4) Falling in slippery places can really leave someone hurt**
 - a. Here in Psalm 16, we are given a warning about the pain that follows falling into sinful beliefs and behaviors
 - i. Specifically in V4 we have a warning about how chasing the wrong gods in this life ends in pain rather than pleasure
 - ii. V4a
 - b. Truth – What we chase with our hearts will shape our lives
 - i. Ps. 16:4 warns that when we pursue the wrong things, it leaves a mark
- 5) Every day we are confronted with things that demand our time, energy, and devotion – many of which leave us empty physically and spiritually**
 - a. Today we are going to explore how V4 challenges us to look at what we pursue with our hearts and how that impacts our lives
- 6) Ever heard the phrase – all that glitters isn't gold?**
 - a. Meaning – the attractiveness of the external appearance is not a reliable indication of its true nature
 - b. V4 is giving us that warning
 - i. Its getting us past the glitter of ungodliness
 - ii. Not all we pursue leads to profit, it can actually lead to pain
- 7) I read a statement this week that summarizes V4 – “Being happy in God starts with saying no” – James Johnston**
 - a. There's a lot, as believers, we say yes to in order to experience intimacy and fulfillment in our walk with Jesus
 - b. But there are some key things we are to say no to as well
- 8) The truth we learn in verse 4 is – in order to stand in slippery places, you must reject the pursuit of ungodly beliefs and behaviors (conform and perform)**
 - i. Key Word – Reject

Reject the Multitude of Woes that ungodliness brings – V4a

1) It's noticeably clear that there is a contrast in tone between V3 & V4

- a. V3 speaks of what David delights in – what he received
- b. V4 speaks of what David discards – what he rejects
- c. On one hand – he loves to keep company with saints, on the other – he refrains from those who make idolatry a habit in life

2) Evidently in David's world at the time, there were a host of people who were quickly swept away in their pursuits of ungodliness

- a. So in V4 we read of his warning to God's people about where that kind of life ends up

3) Notice the language David uses to talk about those who pursue idols - those who ignore following the Lord

- a. Sorrows shall be multiplied – pains increased, griefs increased
 - i. Sorrows – pains, wounds, grievances, afflictions
 - 1. Used 5x's in OT emphasizing sorrow or wounds
 - ii. Multiplied – grow in number, to increase, translated – much, many
 - iii. In essence, A life of idolatry doesn't end in pleasure, it ends in pain
 - iv. Idolatry doesn't produce wholeness, it produces brokenness
 - 1. Brokenness that is not isolated – multiplied
 - v. Here's a promise of God – there shall be multiplied wounds which accompany ungodliness
 - 1. We see this every day – some here have even experienced it
 - vi. Further – there's more to this phrase than just an indication of increased problems that accompany ungodliness
 - 1. This phrase is an ominous reference to the fallenness and pain placing things over God in our life brings
 - 2. Phrase is an allusion back to mankind's original sin and the consequence which God meted out in response
 - 3. Gen. 3:16
 - a. Do doubt a reader of David's day would pick up on the reference he was making
- b. Hasten after – to make haste, to be swept away, to be quick, to do at once
 - i. Indication that this pursuit was not an accidental slip, but a deliberate choice to follow after other things
 - ii. The Hebrew wording suggests an active pursuit rather than a casual following

- c. Another god – idol, something that takes the place of God in your life
 - i. Idol starts with “I”
 - ii. Even a good thing, when it becomes a god thing, becomes a bad thing
- d. Definition of Idolatry – pursuing something in place of God, placing something above God
 - i. “Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your god, your functional savior.” – Martin Luther
 - ii. “You don’t have to go to the heathen lands today to find false gods. America is full of them. Whatever you love more than God is your idol.” – D.L. Moody
- e. Idolatry is a way of life completely inconsistent with the trust of God
 - i. “The attractiveness of idols is because they are visual, portable, tangible, manageable, and servable.” – Al Mohler

4) David is setting a tone of seriousness when it comes to the pursuits of our lives

- a. When we set God aside and pursue life from our own worldview and value – it ends in catastrophe
- b. Idea – you will face increased wounds in this life if you are quick to follow things other than God

5) So serious is idolatry that the first 4 commands of God’s Law addresses idolatry

- a. Exodus 20:2-11
- b. God’s exclusivity – V3
- c. God’s individuality – V4
- d. God’s preeminence – V7
- e. God’s providence – V8
- f. Isa. 44:6 – “Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”

6) Notice where the pursuit of idols ends up – “sorrows shall be multiplied”

- a. Increased wounds
- b. Wounds leave scars, so does sin

Reject the multitude of woes that ungodliness brings

Reject the Mingling of Worship with ungodliness – V4b

- 1) One of the great struggles of God's people from yesteryear until today is to compromise the right worship of God**
 - a. There is a constant and consistent push to reject the exclusivity of God and embrace the inclusivity of spiritualism
 - b. Here we read David say – No
 - i. He stands on the exclusivity of God
 - ii. We are reading the 1st Commandment in action

- 2) What exactly is David talking about in V4b?**
 - a. Truthfully – it's a little unclear, but there are 3 possibilities
 - b. Inhuman, human-blood sacrifices – pagan practices
 - c. Sacrifice with guilt still in the heart – bloodguiltiness
 - d. Drink offering of wine "blood" poured out on top of the sacrifice
 - i. Either done to idols, or done in an idolatrous way
 - e. My take – Drink offering/animal blood offered to idols
 - i. Drink offering – word carries the idea of a cast idol made of melted metal

- 3) Whatever is the exact interpretation, one thing is clear – David wanted nothing to do with a "mingled" worship**
 - a. David rejected the mingling of worship with ungodliness
 - b. He desired to place God first in belief and behavior
 - c. David took a stand when it came to how God was to be worshipped
 - i. Offer – to pour out
 1. Homophonic – referring to anointing a king – Ps. 2:6
 - a. To install
 - ii. In other words – I'm not going to instill their worship over the worship of the One True God

- 4) Can I tell you something you already know, or have already experienced?**
 - a. There is a war over your worship
 - i. The Scripture is clear on this
 1. 2 Cor. 10:3-4
 2. James 4:1
 3. 1 Pet. 2:11

5) Here's what I need you to know - The struggle is real – so don't lose footing

- a. 4 areas it's easy to mingle with worldliness
- b. It's easy to lose footing in the fight over priorities
 - i. idolatry
- c. It's easy to lose footing in the fight of your purpose
 - i. FACT – your purpose in life is to have an intimate, personal, worship-filled relationship with God
 - ii. Col. 1:16
 - iii. Rev. 4:11
 - iv.
- d. It's easy to lose footing in the fight over your passion
 - i. Col. 3:1,2
- e. It's easy to lose footing in the fight over your perspective
 - i. Worldview

Reject the mingling of worship with ungodliness

Reject the Mention of Worldliness – V4c

- 1) By the end of verse 4, we read that David had drawn the line in the sand and chose to follow God**
 - a. V4c
 - b. The mentioning of the idol's names was forbidden in the Law of God
 - i. Ex. 23:13
 - c. David was so against idolatry that he refused to even mention the names of the idols
- 2) David was clear here – he is on God's side not only in his works & worship, but also in his words**
 - a. In other words, David's speech was consistent with who his God is
 - b. David gave no vocal validation to ungodliness
 - i. We conclude that he didn't just stay silent, he spoke out
- 3) One of the easiest ways to slip in this slippery world and cause pain is through our speech**
 - a. James 1:19 – "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"
 - b. The Bible warns of our usage of the tongue
 - i. James 3:3-6
 - c. 2 truths about speech
 - i. Cheap words are often the costliest
 - ii. Silence can be deafening
- 4) It should be the goal of the Christian to return the breath God gave you back to Him in an honorable, obedient, and glorifying manner**
 - a. Ps. 149:5,6 & Ps. 150:6
- 5) Let me ask you this – what do you validate with your speech?**
 - a. Does your speech say – God is my Lord?
 - i. Do you gossip?
 - ii. Do you grumble
 - iii. Do you cuss – Col. 3:8 – vulgar speech, foul language
 - iv. Do you propagate division instead of edification?
- 6) One of the greatest microscopes to the heart is the speech**
 - a. Are you influence by people who speak of God?
 - b. How doo you speak of God?

Reject the mention of worldliness

Closing

- 1) Pain is an indicator feeling that something is not right**
 - a. Explain
- 2) When we approve of the things God rejects, there is often pain (eventually) associated with it**
 - a. Why? It's not right
- 3) Standing in slipper places**
 - a. Reject the multitude of woes that ungodliness brings
 - b. Reject the mingling of worship with ungodliness
 - c. Reject the mention of worldliness
- 4) Takeaway**
 - a. What we passionately pursue defines us
 - b. Ps. 16:4 reminds us to guard our hearts, words, and desires making sure we chase what truly matters
- 5) Story of slipping and Big Mike hugging me and it hurting**
 - a. Hurt people have a hard time receiving love
 - b. Will you get healed?