



Sermon Summary – April 21, 2024

Testify: God Delivers (Psalm 107)

Needs

This psalm identifies four literal needs (1) needing refuge from wandering in the desert, (2) needing freedom from prison (3) needing healing from sickness and (4) needing harbor from a storm at sea. It's possible this psalm was written after the Jewish Exiles returned from Babylon and these were some of the needs they faced. However, figuratively speaking these four represent a multitude of needs people have every day: (1) Those who have lost their way, (2) lost their freedom, (3) lost their health, and (4) lost hope.

Call to God

Those in prison and in ill health were there because of their sin (v.11, 17). But those in the dessert and those on the sea aren't specifically called out for their sin. Sometimes we're in distress because we've sinned and God disciplines us. Other times, we haven't done anything wrong, but God tests us to strengthen our faith. Regardless of the reason, when we have a need - CALL OUT TO GOD. Psalm 107:6, 13, 19, 28 say, **"Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble."**

Why Call out to God

Verses 33-43 tell us why we can call out to God – He is in control, and He loves us. God controls nature so that it becomes His instrument of cursing and blessing. God also controls the experiences of people. He humbles the proud and exalts the humble. The psalm exalts the **faithful love** of God (vv.1, 8, 15, 21, 31). The words "faithful love" translates the Hebrew word, *hesed*. English words that capture part of this word's meaning are love, mercy, kindness, and lovingkindness. The idea behind this word is that God in His unconditional love has made a promise to love and care for His people.

God Delivers

Each time the needy call out to God, He delivers them. Psalm 107:6, 13, 19, 28 say, **"He rescued (saved, brought out) them from their distress."** God may not always change our circumstances as he did for those in need in this psalm. Sometimes He teaches us something to change us. Sometimes He forgives our sin but we still have to live with the consequences of the sin. Moreover, in every case, God helps us through whatever we face with His presence and His peace.

Our Response

The proper godly response to God's gracious deliverance is to give thanks to Him and to tell others about His wonderful works. Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31 say, **"Let them GIVE THANKS to the Lord for His faithful love and His wonderful works for all humanity."** Psalm 107:2 says, **"Let the redeemed of the LORD PROCLAIM that he has redeemed them from the power of the foe."**