



### **Psummer of Psalms: An Affliction Prediction Ps. 34**

Jesus in John 16:33-*In this world you will have trouble...* Famous last words. **An affliction prediction.**

#### **3 Major reasons:**

1. **Consequences of our own sinful actions.** Repent and press on...
2. **Consequences of a broken world.** Cursed by sin.
3. **An active enemy of our souls** (kill, steal, destroy... afflict)

#### **Responses:**

1. **Embitter:** Bitterness rejects God's sovereignty.
2. **Embrace:** To see it as a faith building opportunity to trust. Ps. 141:5 *Let the righteous one strike me, it is an act of faithful love.* Truth realigns us so we can trust in trials.

"This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me" (Psalm 119:50). Reorients me.

"Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word" (Psalm 119:67). Straightens me out.

"It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes" (Psalm 119:71). Teaches me.

**Context:** Ps. 34/56 were written after **1 Sam. 21**, David escapes from King of Gath after faking madness.

Ps. 34:1-3 **Bless the Lord at all times.** Context: not so good times. How do I bless at ALL times?

V. 8 **Taste and see the Lord is good.** 1 Peter 3 also quotes this verse as the motivation for how to respond in affliction. Context is v. 4-7- Regular Reminders of God's goodness.

#### **How does embracing affliction work to good?**

1. **Amplify-** Affliction grows us, amplifies our faith (Job 36:15) *He delivers the afflicted by their affliction and opens their ear by adversity.* Affliction is the wake-up call to prideful self-rule.
2. **Bear-** Afflictions teach us to persevere as it requires developing faith.
3. **Crave-** Affliction makes us hunger for heaven. This world is not our home.

#### **Conclusion:**

- **Death** is not the final word. Is. 53 says He took our pain, suffering and was afflicted, for us.

#### **Grow Group Questions:**

1. How does changing the dialogue from "*Why God???*" to "*What are you doing through this, God?*" change me?
2. Is it even humanly possible to "bless the Lord at all times"? Think of difficult scenarios in the past and how we reacted. How does it change things if we were to "bless the Lord" in those times? Is there any power in praising God in difficult times? What else does the Bible say about "blessing" in affliction?
3. How does knowing and reflecting on Isaiah 53's prophecy that the Messiah was afflicted on our behalf change how I approach God?
4. Paul in Romans 5 and James in chapter 1 says trials produce all kinds of good things in us. How does it do that? Is it automatic or what role do I play in that process?