

Psalms 78 – 27 April 2025

“Benefiting From Corruption”

Introduction

- *This is 3rd of 6 messages in the 3rd Book of Psalms
- *Psalms - the Israeli Hymnbook or Book of Praises
- *Asaph wrote 12 Psalms (50 & 73-83)
- *This is the 2nd longest Psalm & the 1st of 4 historical Psalms
- *Paul reminds us in (Read) I Cor 10:11 - that God’s past interactions with His people are to learn from them so we don’t experience them
- *This is so good to apply to our Children’s Ministry, to raising our kids in general
- *Whether it’s the sinful corruption of our parents or grandparents or for ourselves, we can teach the next generation godliness *because of* past failings
- *Today let’s look at 3 ways to benefit from past corruption and past sins**

#1: Talk of our past failings, yet emphasize God's faithfulness (Psm 78:1-11)

Read Psm 78:1-2

1. Asaph's call is to listen to this instruction
2. He describes what he's saying as comparisons (parables) & dark or hard, perplexing sayings
 - a. If God's Word is hard to receive, it's b/c our heart doesn't want to receive it
 - b. Read II Pet 3:16-17 – We must press in to receive the Word
3. Jesus spoke many parables b/c He was looking for those that truly wanted it
 - a. Read 13:34-35 - Matt's quoting from this vs

Read Vs 3-4

1. Asaph's call is to tell their descendants of God
 - a. We must not hide our past sins from them
2. Notice these hard sayings aren't things hidden from them, but they've always been available
3. We must simply want to receive the Word
 - a. Read Luke 8:9-10 – Unto you it's given!

Read Vs 5-8

1. This is the experience of knowing God; to pass that knowledge on to the next generation
 - a. And to teach them to pass it on
2. But what's being passed on?
 - a. The knowledge of what God has done for His people – this is designed to instill hope
 - i. That they'd have a confidence that following God will be good for them
 - b. We're to pass on our faith in God

Read Vs 9-11

1. Ephraim is a way of referring to all Israel, so we see this is a general reference to Israel's condition not a specific battle
 - a. This doesn't align w/ a specific battle, but a general problem
 - b. That Israel didn't trust God's law
2. *They refused to walk in His law, so they forgot...*
 - a. If we don't do proper actions, then we begin thinking improper thoughts

#2: Take advantage of disruptions to our selfish plans to come into satisfaction w/ God (Psm 78:12-53)

Read Psm 78:12-16

1. Does it seem repetitive to keep talking of this?
 - a. How God parted the Red Sea
 - b. How God led them with a cloud & fire
 - c. How God gave food & water in the desert
2. Don't ever forget; these things really happened, these things can really happen again
3. Let it satisfy us to stay living under the abundant care of God & not desire "more"

Read Vs 17-20

1. Flesh is always dissatisfied w/ God's provision
2. There are many parts to prayer including worship, repentance, intercession & petition
 - a. But petition should be that we need a result, NOT that we need a specific result
 - b. That is seeking your own heart & not God's

Read Vs 21-25

1. Our disbelief & discontentment prompts God out of His natural disposition of grace toward us

2. Notice God's never asked them to do anything
 - a. He simply asks us to trust His way is best
3. Satisfaction is only found in believing that
"God's provision is the right decision"

Read Vs 26-31

1. Since they weren't content w/ God's provision of the water & manna, God sent them quail
 - a. But this was their desire, not His
 - b. They got filled in the flesh & found it to be a burden & a curse
 - i. Exp: playing a video game until you go cross-eyed or sick to your stomach
 - c. But being filled with contentment for God's plan gives us ease & is found to be a blessing
 - i. The more we experience being filled w/ God's Spirit, the more we want it again

Read Vs 32-39

1. As water on good soil, we need to allow godly thoughts or words to sink into our heart becoming good beliefs

- a. If our words don't line up w/ our beliefs, then our words are flattery and not reality
2. The rare moments in life when God shakes us up with corrective punishment, we need to fervently take advantage & let the change sink in
3. Notice that they remembered in their mind, but didn't let it sink into their heart beliefs
4. God had all right to destroy them at that point
 - a. It's only b/c of the abundance of God's grace He corrects us & doesn't just wipe us out

Read Vs 40-53

1. So he recounts the plagues on Egypt & guiding them thru the wilderness to the edge
 - a. But thru it all they make it harder on themselves thru their sin and lusts
2. Think of all the more the Lord may have done for them had they sought for it and for Him
 - a. Notice vs 41 that they limited God's activity and good work toward them
 - b. Read Matt 13:58 – God did less b/c of their unbelief

3. Notice vs 42 – they didn't remember God's power
 - a. (Jesus to Sadducees)-They err not knowing the Bible not God's power (Matt 22:29)
 - b. We need to be believing the Word

#3: Hope in God, not self b/c He's never given up on those He loves (Psm 78:54-72)

Read Psm 78:54-64

1. Now in the next generation, we're reminded how God drove out many nations enabling Israel to possess the Promised Land
 - a. Remember, this was an interactive event
 - b. They cooperated w/ God by faith
2. Now, having the tabernacle go into Philistine captivity was right after period of Judges (I Sam 4)
 - a. This was tragic time of rebellion & idolatry
 - b. Disobedience will have its natural consequences
 - c. Read Heb 12:11 – Doesn't seem right at the time, but God is changing us by His correction

Read Vs 65-66

1. As was the case after the Philistines captured the Ark – the Lord arose to defend His honor
 - a. & defend those He's brought into His name
 - b. God struck the Philistines w/ Hemorrhoids
2. Paul said (Read) Rom 11:28-29
 - a. This should be a great comfort b/c if God won't give up on Israel, He won't give up on me

Read Vs 67-72

1. We end on a high note of hope in the future
 - a. Should look to David's faith as their model
2. Joseph was the son that received the double-portion or double-blessing from his father Jacob
 - a. Yet God chose to bring the king thru Judah
 - b. God chooses in a different way than man does & different than the way Israel has chosen
3. Man looks on the outward appearance
 - a. Does it attract the flesh? Will it quickly help me?

- b. Will it be comfortable? Will I like it?
- 4. God looks on the inward, on the heart
 - a. Does it attract the spirit? Will it take me a godly direction?
 - b. Will it conform me into Christ's image? Will God like it?

Conclusion

So listen, don't waste our valuable experiences by not passing them on to others

- 1. **Talk of our past failings, yet point others to God's faithfulness to provide**
- 2. **Use God's interruptions to come back into satisfaction with Him – only so many chances**
- 3. **Hope in God b/c He never gives up on those He loves – As long as we have breathe**

Don't allow our unbelieving history to repeat itself

Choose to be satisfied walking in faith

And show the next generation what a real walk of faith looks like