

Trust Triumphs over Troubles

Psalm 25

This morning we are going to look at Psalm 25. It is a Psalm written by David. We are not sure when it was written, but most likely later in his life. David's life is one full of trials and troubles. "For You I wait all the day," David prays in Psalm 25:5b. Have you ever found yourself waiting? We wait for so many things in life. Typically, we want what we want, and we want it when we want it. It's hard to wait. David finds himself once again waiting on God. In Psalm 25, we see David praying to God as he faces various challenges in his life. It is my prayer that we will learn that trust in God triumphs over troubles.

Let's look at Psalm 25...

Psalm 25 is an acrostic or alphabetic Psalm. Each verse begins with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Acrostic Psalms include Psalm 9-10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, and 145. Psalm 25 is a bit different because 3 letters are omitted and 3 are repeated. The function of the acrostic might have been... 1) To provide a framework for the poem; 2) To display artistic skill as a literary work; 3) To aid in memorization; and 4) To convey completeness ("A" to "Z").

We can learn so much from this Prayer of David. From this Psalm we are going to see...

- I. David's Trial vs 1-7
- II. David's Confidence vs 8-15
- III. David's Troubles vs 16=22

Look at verse 1... David has found himself in a trial. He is in a horrible situation. What does he do? He cries out to his great God. He cries out to God with a statement of trust. David knows that God is Sovereign. David knows God's greatness. God is in control of his life. God is his creator. God knows David's circumstances. God knows David's

thoughts. God knows David's struggles. And David knows that. That is why he trusts God and prays.

What do you do when you find yourself in various trials? Adrian read Philippians 4: 4-9 this morning. Philippians 4:6 says, "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*" Does God want us to be anxious when we face troubles? No. He wants us to trust in Him and go to Him in prayer. In Psalm 25, David was in a situation where many would find themselves anxious. David trusted God. David had a personal relationship with God. His faith was strong. He showed his trust and faith by crying out to God in prayer. Charles Spurgeon writes, "Faith is the cable which binds our boat to the shore, and by pulling at it we draw ourselves to the land; faith unites us to God, and then draws us near to him. As long as the anchor of faith holds there is no fear in the worst tempest; if that should fail us there would be no hope left. We must see to it that our faith is sound and strong, for otherwise prayer cannot prevail with God. Woe to the warrior who throws away his shield; what defense can be found for him who finds no defense in God?"

What trial was David going through? He is surrounded by treacherous enemies who attempted to put him to shame and triumph over him. Look at the second part of verse 2... David knows that God is great. God is greater than his enemies. God will lead him through his trials. Pastor Steve Lawson says, "The stronger the wind, the deeper the roots of the tree must grow to remain upright. Even so, the howling winds of life's storms are used by God to deepen our faith in Him."

What does David mean when he prays "Do not let me be ashamed"? This word *ashamed* appears four times in David's prayer. And David has prayed this prayer before. Psalm 35:26 says, "*Let those be ashamed and humiliated altogether who rejoice at my distress; Let those be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves over me.*"

This is not the shame of embarrassment or being made to feel foolish and subject to ridicule. This sense of shame is that of disappointment. It is finding someone untrustworthy whom you had trusted. God is always trustworthy. No one trusting Him will be ashamed or disappointed. David's prayer continues in verse 3...

What does David mean when he prays, "wait for You"? Waiting on the Lord is a patient and confident trust in God. It is seeking Him. It is praying to God as David did. Isaiah 40:31 says, *"Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."* Waiting for God implies acceptance of His timing in His wisdom. This is waiting with eager expectation due to trusting God. It is not a sullen, helpless resignation to the inevitable. If you wait on God, you will not be disappointed. David mentions waiting on the Lord three times in his prayer (vs 3, vs 5, vs 20).

Look at vs 4-5...

David is praying for the Lord's guidance. He wants to do God's will. "Make me know Your ways, O LORD." "Teach me Your paths." Lead me in Your truth." "And teach me." How do we find God's ways? How does He teach us? Where do we find His truth? It is found in God's Word. We must be in God's Word. Pray verse 4 & 5 as you open God's Word. David did this. He trusted God. He looked to God for guidance.

Look at vs 6-7...

In these two verses, David remembers God's grace as he goes through his trial. "Remember" is written three times in these two verses. "Remember Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses." Compassion and lovingkindnesses are plural in the Hebrew language. This speaks of their abundance. Compassion speaks of the mercy of God. Lovingkindness speaks of God's loyal love. David remembers God's mercy and love. David prays, "Do not remember the sins of my youth or

my transgressions.” David knows his past and present sins. He knows that he needs God’s mercy and love and forgiveness. He prays, according to Your lovingkindness remember me. For Your goodness’ sake, O LORD.”

Pastor James Montgomery Boice shared a story about Pastor Harry Ironside...

In his commentary on the psalms Harry Ironside tells of visiting a very old Christian. The man was about ninety years old, and he had lived a godly life. However, in his last days he sent for Ironside because, as he expressed it, “Everything seems so dark.” “Whatever do you mean?” asked Ironside. “You have known the Lord for nearly seventy years. You have lived for him a long, long time. You have helped others. Whatever do you mean ‘dark’?” The man replied, “In my illness, since I have been lying here so weak, my memory keeps bringing up the sins of my youth, and I cannot get them out of my mind. They keep crowding in upon me, and I cannot help thinking of them. They make me feel miserable and wretched.” Ironside turned to this psalm and read the verse in which David prays, *Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD (Ps. 25:7)*. After he had read the words he said, “When you came to God seventy years ago you confessed your sin and put your trust in Jesus Christ. Do you remember what happened then?” The old man couldn’t remember. Ironside said, “Don’t you remember that when you confessed your sins God said, ‘Your sins and iniquities I will remember no more.’ If God has forgotten them, why should you think about them?” The man relaxed and replied, “I am an old fool remembering what God has forgotten.” He found peace because he had been instructed in the nature of God and God’s ways.

David remembered the Lord’s greatness, the Lord’s guidance, and the Lord’s grace as he went through his trial in verse 1-7.

Now we will see David’s confidence in verses 8-15...

In these verses, we see four more elements of David's prayer...

- A. David's Adoration vs 8-10
- B. David's Confession vs 11
- C. David's Question vs 12-14
- D. David's Expectation vs 15

Look at verses 8-10...

If you look back to verses 1-7, you will see that David is speaking **to** God. "To **You**, O Lord...in **You** I trust...those who wait for **You**...make me know **Your** ways, O LORD... Teach me **Your** paths...Lead me in **Your** truth...For **You** are the God of my salvation... We see it all the way to verse 7. In verses 8-10, we see David is speaking **about** God as he prays. He is remembering the attributes and actions of God. He says that God is good and upright. Therefore, He instructs, leads, and teaches. God is good and upright so He instructs sinners in the way they should go. Sinners are those who have gone their own rebellious way. God shows them how to get back to the way. John 14:6 says, "*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*" John 3:16 says, "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*"

"His way" is unlike the "way of sinners." God deals with His children justly, lovingly and faithfully and expects them to imitate Him.

In verse 10 we see the first use of the word "covenant" in the Psalms. "...To those who keep His covenant...", writes David. Pastor Steve Lawson writes, "A covenant was a binding pact or agreement between two parties, whether between individuals or nations. God often used this word to describe his relationship with Israel, His chosen people. Yet unlike a covenant between people involving a mutual agreement, the covenant between God and His people was a unilateral covenant, or an agreement based on the faithfulness of God alone. This covenant was

initiated and instituted by God alone to protect and preserve His chosen ones. The one-sided nature of this covenant is clearly evident in the statement, “*I will be your God, and you will be My people*” (Lev. 26:12; Exod 19:5).” David had confidence in God as he prayed with adoration of who God is, what He had done, and what He continues to do.

David’s confidence can also be seen in verse 11 where we see David’s confession.

David knows that God is *a compassionate and loving God* (vs 6). He knows that God is *the God of his salvation* (vs 5). David has prayed that God *does not remember the sins of his youth or his transgressions*. He now prays that God *would pardon his iniquity for it is great*. He is speaking once again to God and confessing his sin. 1 John 1:9 says, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” Romans 3:23 says, “*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” Romans 6:23 says, “*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” David prayed, “*For the sake of Your name, O LORD.*” Charles Spurgeon says, “*Not for our sakes or our merits’ sake, but to glorify Thy mercy and to show forth the glory of Thy divine attributes.*” David shows his confidence in God through His confession to God.

Next, David shows his confidence by asking a question. Look at verses 12-14...

In these verses we see David speaking about man. At the beginning of his sermon series on Proverbs, John Marc spoke about the man who fears the Lord. He said, “the fear of the Lord leads to divine wisdom for righteous living.” Proverbs 1:7 says, “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*” Proverbs 9:10 says, “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*” For the unbeliever, the fear of God is the fear of the judgment of God and eternal death, which is eternal separation from God. For the believer, the

fear of God is a reverence for God. David prays, “*Who is the man who fears the Lord?*” in verse 12. David says, the person who fears the Lord...1) will be guided by God (vs 12b) “He will instruct him in the way he should choose”; 2) will be blessed by God (vs 13) “His soul will abide in prosperity; And his descendants will inherit the land.” ; 3) And, will know God closely (vs 14) “The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant.” “The fear of the Lord leads to divine wisdom for righteous living.” What great knowledge, wisdom, instruction, and understanding could be ours if we “fear the Lord.” David feared the Lord.

Look at verse 15...

David is confident in God and had an expectation that God would answer his prayer. David continually prayed to God. He expected that God would “pluck his feet out of the net.” Again, David trusts that God would rescue him in whatever way He chooses and at whatever time He chooses.

We have seen David’s Trial and David’s Confidence in God.

Finally, we shift to David’s Troubles in verse 16-22. Again, we see David speaking to God. But in the final verses, his focus is on man.

First, we will look at David’s position. Verse 16b says **he is lonely and afflicted.** Verse 17a says he has a discouraged heart and is distressed. Verse 18b says **he is afflicted and troubled.** Verse 19b says **he is hated by many enemies.**

Have you Ever felt like David? Let me remind you that David knew that Trust in God triumphs over troubles. God already knows what David is going through. And David knows that trusting God begins with prayer. He has already praised God for who God is and what God has done. Now he is going to petition God and ask for some specific requests.

In Verse 16a David says, “*Turn to me...*” David just said in verse 15, “*My eyes are continually toward the LORD...*” Now he prays, “*God, turn to me...*” David wants to be free from the pain that he is in. He wants to be delivered from his enemies. He wants to be forgiven of his sin.

Let’s look again at verse 16 to 20 to see the flow of his prayer...

Notice in verse 20, “*Do not let me be ashamed*” is repeated from the first part of the passage (v2&v3). God, You are trustworthy. No one trusting You will be ashamed or disappointed.

Verse 21 says...

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word translated “integrity” means “the condition of being without blemish, completeness, perfection, sincerity, soundness, uprightness, wholeness.” David wants to walk in a way that the Lord would honor, in integrity and uprightness. He knows that the only way to do this is to trust in the Lord. Notice the repeated phrase “*For I wait for You.*” He knows he can’t live a life of integrity and uprightness without God’s help. He must trust the Lord. A verse that John Marc keeps repeating from Proverbs is Proverbs 3:5–6... “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*”

Verse 22 leaves us with a final prayer request. David did not only focus on his own troubles, but also for the troubles of Israel.

Wouldn’t it be amazing if we all pray like David and see Trust in God triumph over our troubles?