

FINDING HOPE IN HARD TIMES—WEEK 3

Psalm 71

April 21, 2024

1. Introduction

- a. Welcome—Guests—Spring Weekend
- b. Mission & Vision—4LKN
- c. Baptism today
- d. Sermon Series:
 - i. Week 1: Psalm 25—Evan—Hope through trust
 - ii. Week 2: Psalm 33—Hope through music/worship
 - iii. Today: Psalm 71—Finding hope through prayer
 - 1. Psalms is a prayer book for God’s people
 - 2. A model of how to pray when things are unfair
 - a. Six parts

2. **Ask God for help.**

- a. **Psalm 71:1-4**
- b. Request for deliverance/salvation from shame (and confusion)
 - i. What is shame?
 - 1. “Shame and confusion” = several times in Psalms
 - 2. Proverbs 22:1. A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.
 - 3. Babel = confused language thwarted their purposes
- c. Request for deliverance from the wicked, evil, and cruel.
- d. STORY. Joseph — brothers, Potiphar’s wife, cupbearer. Daniel.

3. Affirm your confidence in God and name your problem.

a. Psalm 71:5-8

b. Statement of faith/hope from childhood and lament for the current situation—they can go together. Faith doesn't mean no problems.

c. "You have been" since _____.

d. "I have become a sign to many."

i. What is your lament?

4. Pour out your heart to God about others.

a. Psalm 71:9-13

b. Prayer for faithfulness and vindication from God

i. Strength and sustenance when his strength is gone.

c. What do you want from God? Is it consistent with his promises?

d. What are the details of the problem you're facing? A lot of the time it has to do with other people. What are people trying to kill?

5. Pour out your heart to others about God.

a. Psalm 71:14-18

b. Promise of faith/hope through old age

c. Commit to praising God and talking about his goodness.

- i. What's front-of-mind will frame our thinking. Not just self-talk. Deuteronomy 6 — frontlets.
- ii. Bearing witness to others encourages them and us.

6. Reaffirm your confidence in God despite your problems.

a. Psalm 71:19-21

b. Hope/confidence in deliverance despite lament

c. “Though you have made me see troubles” = cp. v. 7 “sign”

d. “You will” (cp. v. 5)

- i. ... restore my life
- ii. ... bring me up from the depths of the earth
- iii. ... increase my honor (vs. shame)
- iv. ... comfort me once more

7. Praise God and celebrate his help in advance.

a. Psalm 71:22-24

b. Praise and vindication

8. Invitation

9. Transition to Baptism