



**Jesus the Messiah
Part 1
His Life and His Suffering
Psalm 69:1-19**

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The interesting thing we find in the Psalms is that they, in many cases, have been intentionally organized around themes such as we just saw with the grouping of psalms dealing with the end of the age. We are now entering a four-psalm series on the Messiah. Psalm 69 through Psalm 72 “lead us prophetically from the suffering and rejected Christ to the Glory of His Kingdom in the 72 Psalm.” (Gaebelein 2009, 276)



David is the author of three of these, and his son Solomon is the author of Psalm 72. All are Messianic and prophetic.

First up is Psalm 69 which speaks of His suffering, but it also provides us, per Dr. McGee, a picture or glimpse of some of the “silent years in the life of the Lord Jesus.” (McGee 1997, 786) Dr. McGee continues.

“This psalm tells us about the silent years of Christ’s childhood and young manhood, of which the Gospels tell us practically nothing. Dr. Luke tells us about an incident in the life of our Lord when He was twelve years old, and then we learn nothing else about Him until He is about thirty years old. What about that period of time? This psalm fills in some of the details. We see some of Christ’s dark days in Nazareth and His dark hours on the cross. His imprecatory prayer is actually a cry for justice. This is the psalm of His humiliation and rejection. We begin with Him way up north at Nazareth.” (McGee 1997, 786)

We read through the scriptures and are amazed at the miracle of the virgin birth, but in a small place like Israel, things get around and not everyone was quite as accepting of the Holy Spirit’s involvement in the birth of Jesus as Joseph and Mary were. The Temple leadership never stopped attacking on this point.

John 8:34–47

“Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free. Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there’s no room in your hearts for my message. I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father.” “Our father is Abraham!” they declared. “No,” Jesus replied, “for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example. Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. **No, you are imitating your real father.**” They replied, **“We aren’t illegitimate children! God himself is our true Father.”** Jesus told them, **“If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. Why can’t you understand what I am saying? It’s because you can’t even hear me! For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does.** He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don’t believe me! Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don’t you believe me? Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don’t listen because you don’t belong to God.”” (NLT)

In Nazareth, everyone knew that Jesus’ conception was (potentially) illegitimate, because it occurred fewer than nine months after his parents’ marriage, and everyone could count. In fact, after spending three months at Elizabeth’s house (Luke 1:56) and other delays, Mary probably had a visible bump on her wedding day. (Instone-Brewer 2020, 58)

This could account for the continuing outrage in His home community when He preached there.

Mark 6:1–3

“He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? **Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.**” (ESV)

Notice, not the son of Joseph. They all knew and did not believe.



Why would they not include Joseph in the description of His family? “Even after someone’s father had died, they continued being named after him, so Joseph’s death would not explain why Jesus was called “son of Mary.” This glaring omission of the name “Joseph” proclaimed the basis of the insult: no one knew who Jesus’ father was.” (Instone-Brewer 2020, 59)

Does this mean there were words, slurs and slanderous things said even when he was a child? Most likely. With that background, we come to the psalm.

Psalm 69:title—4

“For the music director; according to Shoshannim. A Psalm of David. **Save me, God, For the waters have threatened my life.** I have sunk in deep mud, and there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and a flood overflows me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eyes fail while I wait for my God. Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; Those who would destroy me are powerful, those who oppose me with lies; What I did not steal, I then have to restore.” (NASB 2020)

We see Jesus here on this planet, incarnated as a man, and we forget, He is also God. He did not have to do this, but He loves us and chose to do so.

Some would put two and two together and look at His parentage as what it truly is, fulfilled prophecy.

The prophecy came about because of one of the worst Kings ever to rule in Judah, King Ahaz, refused to take Isaiah or the Lord seriously.

Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: **Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel.**” (NASB 2020)

And that is indeed what happened. Yet, in a religious community like Judea, this came with baggage since many valued religion over the actual word of God.

What we see is the total dependence Christ would have on the Father from the very earliest time in His life. His physical suffering on the cross on our behalf was horrible, but as we are seeing and learning, He suffered throughout His life. All Joseph would have had to do was say, yes, Mary and I made this boy, but He didn’t. He remained true to the vision he was given and as a result, was also most likely subjected to ridicule as well. Very few would have believed the story that he would tell. We learn a lot of who Joseph was from how obedient he was to the Lord. Note, he doesn’t argue with the Lord, he just does as the Lord says to do...and he does it immediately.

Matthew 1:18–25

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). **When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.”** (ESV)



This might also give us some insight about the reaction of the half brothers and sisters to Jesus as well. After the death of Joseph, Jesus, as the first born, would have taken on the responsibility of providing for his mother and the family. Normal activity in the culture. This means they may have been traveling with Him at times.

Jesus, after prayer, selected the twelve and went home. There was a large crowd and members of His family were concerned as they were hearing the words being said about Him that made them question His sanity. We read this.

Mark 3:21–22

“And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.”” (ESV)

Did His family come to His support? Nope. We see this.

Mark 3:31–35

“And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”” (ESV)

What was presented here was a practical example for the Lord to teach. There are indeed times where faithfulness to the Lord means walking away from earthly relationships, and family would indeed be one of those

Jesus declares that a new family is being formed, those who wish to follow the will of God. “In the new family which Jesus calls into being there is demanded the radical obedience to God which he demonstrated in his submission to the Father and which the disciples manifested in their response to his call.” (Lane 1974, 148)

For much of His life, as He would talk with the Father, I am sure this was part of the conversation. He knew His calling, and it was not always comfortable for Him personally.

Psalms 69:2–3

“I have sunk in deep mud, and there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and a flood overflows me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.” (NASB 2020)

Have you ever been trapped in a situation you volunteered for and then once there, began to have buyers' remorse? Many of us have and when I say volunteered for, we made decisions that led up to the circumstances that we find ourselves in.

Remember, this is indeed a prayer from David regarding some situation he is experiencing, but it is also Messianic and prophetic about our Lord and Savior.

As God, Jesus made the agreement with the Father prior to creation (Ephesians 1:3-6) and knew the incarnation and all that came with it was the only option available. But once He also became a man, then you mix in the human emotions that go along with life, yet He always submitted to the will of the Father. He is entirely reliant on the Father for everything and yet He is here because He is being obedient to the Father. Life is complicated, and this psalm does not un-complicate it. We discover in this psalm that one



can suffer from personal pain, the sin of others, or the action of enemies and all at the same time while relying on the Lord and waiting on Him.

I remember as a young man, wanting to play football so as I entered High School, I was notified that there was pre-season conditioning that would start on August 1st, so I signed up. No pads, no hitting, so how bad could it be.

First of all, did I say it was August? This is in the central valley of California prior to the various water projects being completed where the average daytime temperature in August is usually around 110 or so. But we started at 4pm and would workout for three hours.

On day one, at 1.5 hours into it, I began to question my sanity. How many squat thrusts can you do after more sit ups than I ever wanted to do at one time.

I survived all the really fun wind sprints too and soon; it was home and bed. I had survived day one. But then when I go up the next morning, I was convinced I had died. Lactic acid made everything scream in agony. I agreed whole heartedly with David.

Psalms 69:1–3

“Save me, God, For the waters have threatened my life. I have sunk in deep mud, and there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and a flood overflows me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.” (NASB 2020)

And I had another week and 4 days of this. What have I done?

By the way, about a third of those who had started on Monday, did not show up on Tuesday, or ever again. Realizing the consequences of your decisions can have that impact. Jon Courson tells a story of what the consequences may have felt like for our Lord.

The Lord takes *“you beyond the farthest star and shows you a tiny planet, isolated in a far corner of the universe. As you look closely, you see it is inhabited by dogs. “Little dogs on a planet—how cute,” you say.*

“Look a little more closely,” says the Lord. And as you do, you see the dogs are not so cute after all. With teeth bared and foam dripping from their mouths, they’re biting and devouring one another.

“This is sick,” you say. “Those dogs are all rabid. Destroy them, Lord.”

“No,” He answers. “I love them. I want to tell them I have a plan to heal them, but they don’t listen to Me because I’m too big for them to relate to. That’s why I brought you here today. I want you to go down there and tell them I have an antidote for their rabid sickness.”

“Okay,” you say.

“But wait. There’s more,” says the Lord. “If they’re going to listen to you, you must become like them: a dog.”

“Let me get this straight,” you say. “You want me to become a dog and tell them You have a plan for them, an antidote to heal them?”



"Yes," answers the Lord. "But there's something else: They're not going to listen to your message. On the contrary, they'll turn upon you, rip you to shreds, and kill you. I will resurrect you with great glory and honor—but from that point on, you'll be a dog forever."

If God asked that of me, I would say, "No, Lord." But you know something? Jesus Christ becoming a man is a far greater step down than you becoming a dog. His descent was a lower step than we will ever comprehend this side of eternity. Granted, He is resurrected. Granted, He is glorified. But He remains in His humanity in order that He might pray for us as a compassionate Priest and feel the hurts we're going through right now. He remains a Man to this day." (Courson 2003, 530-531)

Psalm 69:4

"Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; Those who would destroy me are powerful, those who oppose me with lies; What I did not steal, I then have to restore." (NASB 2020)

Jesus understood who He was and what the mission was. It was all about redemption and this planet, which was already in rebellion to God, would not give up it's rebellion without being forced to do so. We understand that from what we read in Revelation 19.

He had spent His entire life here on earth living with this knowledge and as He prepared to go to the cross, He briefed His disciples about what to expect as well.

John 15:18–16:4

"If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you do not belong to the world, but I chose you out of the world, for this reason the world hates you. Remember what I told you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they obeyed my word, they will obey yours too. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. But they no longer have any excuse for their sin. **The one who hates me hates my Father too. If I had not performed among them the miraculous deeds that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen the deeds and have hated both me and my Father. Now this happened to fulfill the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me without reason.'** When the Advocate comes, whom I will send you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me, and you also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. **I have told you all these things so that you will not fall away. They will put you out of the synagogue, yet a time is coming when the one who kills you will think he is offering service to God. They will do these things because they have not known the Father or me. But I have told you these things so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them.** I did not tell you these things from the beginning because I was with you." (NET 2nd ed.)

The enemies of Jesus hated Him without cause. They saw Him as a threat to their station in life, to their riches, to their position in this world. But He did nothing to cause that hatred. Why would anyone object to someone healing another with a miracle? They did. Why would anyone object to someone being raised from the dead? They did.

He was hated without a cause and what did He do on the cross as a result of this hatred. He has forgiven you and me justifying us without a cause.

Romans 3:24

"But they are **justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**" (NET 2nd ed.)



He willingly came to this planet to suffer and die for all of us so that we might be forgiven and live with Him for all eternity. And there was not reason for Him to do other than His love.

Ephesians 2:1–9

“And although you were dead in your offenses and sins, in which you formerly lived according to this world’s present path, according to the ruler of the domain of the air, the ruler of the spirit that is now energizing the sons of disobedience, among whom all of us also formerly lived out our lives in the cravings of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath even as the rest ... **But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even though we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved!**—and he raised us up together with him and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, to demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Jesus Christ was hated by the masses, and by the religious leadership, for no cause. He was hated without cause so that we could be justified, without a cause. His grace is the reason, His grace. Why would we ever be shocked if we are unfairly despised and persecuted by the world, since we identify with Jesus.

Psalms 69:5

“God, You know my foolishness, And my guilt is not hidden from You.” (NASB 2020)

So, I hear the question on this verse, “How could this apply to Jesus?” Remember, on the cross, He became sin for us. He asked, three times prior to going to the cross, if this cup could pass. In other words, is there any other way this could happen and achieve the redemption of mankind? God did not answer that prayer because there was no other way. Jesus remained obedient no matter what.

Matthew 26:42–44

“Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, **“My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”** And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, **he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.**” (ESV)

While on the cross, He suffered, not just the horrible physical suffering, but also emotional and spiritual as well. As He took on all the sin of the world, the father could no longer look at Him and for the first and only time in all eternity, He was separated from God, suffering so we would never have to be.

Matthew 27:45–46

“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”” (ESV)

It also could be Jesus voicing through David, the reality of what took place among His disciples as He went to the cross. Others will see Me and will be shamed because of what shame I am going through on their behalf. This did indeed take place.

Matthew 26:55–56

“At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” **Then all the disciples left him and fled.**” (ESV)



Yes, I know that John and Peter followed at a distance and observed some of the proceedings. Peter wound up denying Him three times. John was the only one who was there the next morning along with some of the women who were also following.

Psalm 69:6

"May those who wait for You not be ashamed because of me, Lord GOD of armies; May those who seek You not be dishonored because of me, God of Israel," (NASB 2020)

The Lord knows that even those who were following Him would take offense at His choice to be obedient to the Father in this case. Peter tried and was told he was furthering Satan's work (Mark 8:33). Looking at this from the perspective of David would help.

David appeals to God in desperation that "those who put their hope in you" and "those who seek you" wouldn't be "disgraced" or "humiliated." While such reproach would be horrific for any reason, his concern here is that it would happen "because of me." Whether the charges against him were valid or not, he knew they would reflect on God's people. For the Israelites, shame and disgrace as a result of an enemy's attack didn't prompt internal emotions alone but also visible actions of communal rejection and detraction (see Pss 70:2; 71:1, 13). (Platt, Mason and Shaddix 2020, 171-172)

Jesus knew that He was being persecuted and killed because He chose to follow and be obedient to the Father in all things. Even this. And the next verse declares this for us.

Psalm 69:7-9

"Because for Your sake I have endured disgrace; Dishonor has covered my face. I have become estranged from my brothers, And a stranger to my mother's sons. For zeal for Your house has consumed me, And the taunts of those who taunt You have fallen on me." (NASB 2020)

As David writes this, we hear the agony in his prayer as his own brothers did not understand what it was, he was going through. For Jesus, as the events of the crucifixion unfolded, His disciples became estranged. The fear for self for most of them was overwhelming and seeing what was happening to the they had followed, they knew they would be next.

There is something I have seen take place way to often in our culture these days. When we see a follower of Jesus attacked by the press, or, as in the case of Charlie Kirk, physically attacked and killed, why is it that so many who name the name of Jesus turned away in rejection and criticism?

I have noticed that in the videos of pastors who were street preaching and arrested while doing so, those who were with them, praying with them, leave them all on their own. Why is that? Fear.

What was prayed for in verse 6 for those of us who are followers of the Lord to not be ashamed as well, is indeed counter to our own nature.

We are also seeing aspects of the prophecies regarding the end times also now coming into play and of course, lawlessness is indeed on the increase. In the "church" today there are those who refuse to take a stand against those things the Bible is incredibly clear about and instead they vilify those of us who take a stand for the unborn, or for basic Biblical morality and sexuality. I have discovered that there are indeed many today who are "offended" by discussions of the pretribulation rapture of the church or even sound doctrine.

Then there are those of us who truly believe God made it all in six days. Just like the Bible says.



It is hard enough for those who remain publicly faithful to Christ in these and similar matters to be mocked and abused in the world, but the scornful betrayal of their fellow believers is a grief almost too painful for them to bear. (Phillips 2019, 294)

I have been accused of engaging in false teaching, among other things, and by those who say they are followers of Jesus Christ. And yes, I have had those who have treacherously turned on me as well, and in the name of Jesus no less.

The estrangement being discussed in verse 8 is also in the family. Jesus was not the physical son of Joseph, yet He was the son of Joseph. I am sure his half brothers and sisters looked down at Him questioning His parentage. We do know that none of them believed until after the resurrection. That changed everything for many.

The text though tells us He was “a stranger to my mother’s sons.” Joseph is not mentioned. Once again, we see a pointer here to the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

Then there is how serious Jesus was about His obedience to the Father.

This is not that unusual based on the way Jesus was treated when He cleared the Temple of those things that did not belong in it. Something He did at two different times. His disciples recalled this prophecy of David at the first event, recorded in John 2.

John 2:15–17

“And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” His disciples remembered that it was written, “**Zeal for your house will consume me.**” (ESV)

Here in John, at the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus is already demonstrating God’s antipathy to the world of religion, and He is also reflecting a zeal for the Lord that was not that normal anymore. John the Baptist showed up, and it was a shock, and now Jesus. And Jesus is flipping tables in the Temple. It was already about making a shekel as part of religion and we see what Jesus thought about that in the Temple.

There are many today who are busy bringing dishonor to the name of Jesus Christ. False teachers and religion both have the ability to do that. Laodicean churches today are bringing such disdain on the name of Jesus that even those who teach the word are lumped in.

There have been recent moves in multiple locations to engage in building campaigns of various types but normally, these attempts to build a church, or school or whatever, have nothing to do with the Lord but have everything to do with making a name for the Senior Pastor. It was a running joke in some Texas Baptist circles that if a new pastor wanted to make his mark, build something. The pride of men, who are pushing agendas outside of the will of the Lord, is amazing.

For example, if you were to do a search of churches for sale in Florida, you would be shocked at how new and large some of the facilities are. What happened? Each story is different, but some are the same.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we too are to reflect our Lord and His zeal for true faith versus those who play at it. Intentionally alienating those who are supposed to be the focus of your ministry makes it incredibly difficult to continue to have any ministry with them going forward.



Great, you now have larger building but, the parking lot was the casualty and now those who come to your church, must park on the neighboring streets. Doing a local outreach for Jesus becomes problematic when you have just offended all those around you. And in the days of Social Media, they tell the entire world what they think of you and the Lord which you are no longer representing.

What we see here though is that who would taunt the Lord, and belittle His name, they will do the same for those who stand up for what the Lord wants. Charles Spurgeon tells us that “zeal for God is so little understood by men of the world, that it always draws down opposition upon those who are inspired with it; they are sure to be accused of sinister motives, or of hypocrisy, or of being out of their senses. When zeal eats us up, ungodly men seek to eat us up too, and this was pre-eminently the case with our Lord, because his holy jealousy was pre-eminent.” (Spurgeon n.d., 178-179)

Psalms 69:10–12

“When I wept in my soul with fasting, It became my disgrace. When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a proverb to them. Those who sit in the gate talk about me, And songs of mockery by those habitually drunk are about me.” (NASB 2020)

Have you ever met a serious prayer warrior? You most likely have but don't know because they are very invisible. They do not advertise that is where their heart is. But go to a serious prayer meeting and see who shows up all the time.

At Calvary Chapel Austin, in the early days, there was a very small group of us who would get together Friday morning early to pray.

The first couple of weeks there were a few more faces than what finally wound up being the norm. Prayer does that. Once we finally had a building, we began to pray, I mean week one in the middle of demolition. That is zeal with shoes on. I learned a lot and already know that we must be coming together as His church in prayer just as soon as we can begin to do so.

Once we have a place we can call ours for more than a couple of hours at a time, then yes, we will be engaging in prayer. We will also do so as a body at least once a month as well. Nothing happens without it and it breaks my heart we have this hole right now.

Were there those who wept? Absolutely. Was fasting involved? Sometimes. Did God move mightily? Yes, He did. What we see though here in the text is the ridicule of those who do not understand that type of zeal for the Lord. The snide remarks about time in prayer. I've heard them. Mockery? Yes, that too goes along with it.

Once you plug into the Holy Spirit and He plugs you into prayer, you will never want to stop. Especially when you find a like-minded group.

While Jesus was growing up there in Nazareth, I am sure there were many who did not understand why He went off to be alone with the Father. Even the disciples did not get it.

Before entering into public ministry, when Jesus would fast, no one understood. When He wore sackcloth, something we tend not to do today as it advertises, we are fasting, He became someone to make fun of. It was no longer common in the culture. We see in the scriptures that Jesus had a habit of going off to someplace quiet where He could be with the Father. He obviously developed that habit while growing up and every time He would walk out of Nazareth, the leadership at the gate that day would see Him and apparently some of them even made fun of Him as well.

Once public ministry began, during His first teaching tour, we see this.



Mark 1:35–37

“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.”” (ESV)

The day before had been incredibly busy. People had been healed and many had been set free from demonic control. I would want to take a bit of me time, but Jesus gives us the example here of getting up early to go and pray. This is a habit He has already developed long before this time. He had become popular fast due to healing. So, He goes and prays.

Dr. Curtis Mitchell tells us that “Christ was still engaged in prayer when the disciples found Him. The conversation that took place gives us a hint as to the purpose which promoted Jesus to pray. Jesus’ popularity was due largely to His healing ministry, but after this prayer session, He announced to His disciples that He had decided to move on a preach.” (Mitchell 1977, 18)

Prayer gives us the band width to let the Holy Spirit talk to us and redirect us, if need be, or affirm us where we are.

When I was doing Christian radio, there were times where we would lead those listening, in prayer. Especially when 9/11 took place or other news events where prayer was desired by many of those listening.

The next day, at work, I quickly discovered who happened to be listening to the station the prior evening, without fail, they would ridicule me.

If we are serious about following Jesus, then yes, we will indeed get treated just like He was.

Psalm 69:13

“But as for me, my prayer is to You, LORD, at an acceptable time; God, in the greatness of Your mercy, Answer me with Your saving truth.” (NASB 2020)

We know from what we see in the scriptures, that Jesus prayed. This was not just during the times of His public ministry but was a habit of His during His life even as a young man growing up.

Here is the thing we all need to realize, when we pray, when we do as Jesus did and take the time to pray, that is an acceptable time. Early, midday, late, it really does not matter.

Do you feel like He isn’t there, that is an acceptable time, He is there.

The bottom line for all of us, when we too are seemingly overwhelmed by what is going on around us, just as Jesus was, just as David was, it is right and acceptable to take some time and get alone with the Lord and pray. The writer of Hebrews knew this truth.

Hebrews 4:16

“Therefore let’s approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.” (NASB 2020)

For our Lord, it was always an acceptable time to pray. And here, we learn what He prayed.

Psalm 69:14–19

“Rescue me from the mud and do not let me sink; May I be rescued from those who hate me, and from the depths of water. May the flood of water not overflow me Nor the deep swallow me up, Nor the pit



close its mouth on me. Answer me, LORD, for Your mercy is good; According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me, And do not hide Your face from Your servant, For I am in distress; answer me quickly. Come near to my soul and redeem it; Ransom me because of my enemies! You know my disgrace, my shame, and my dishonor; All my enemies are known to You.” (NASB 2020)

Again, we forget that Jesus is fully man and as a result, what David lays out for us is indeed prophetically accurate. This also includes His confidence in the Father to indeed answers His prayers. Instead of focusing on His feeling of being trapped here, which we would totally understand, Jesus focuses in on the attributes of God and as He does so, moves to the comfort of God’s care.

We will pick up again here next time.

Let’s pray.

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