

Fellowship Notes ~ Sunday, April 5th, 2020



Part 3: Psalm 16

Background to the Psalm – 1 Samuel 26

This song was written by David sometime after he had been on the run from King Saul who was seeking to kill him despite his innocence. David had the opportunity to end the manhunt by personally killing Saul, but instead he spared his life and as a result was finally enjoying a season of peace. In this temporary calm when he's finally not running for his life, David takes the time to reflect on God and His confidence in the Lords' never-ending care, protection and joy. David's song gives us several important responses to make toward God in troubled times.

In Troubled Times...

1. Take inventory of who God is (vs. 1-4)

Recognize God's protection (vs. 1-2; James 1:17; Romans 8:32; John 10:10)

Elohim = Supreme One, Mighty One

Jehovah = LORD

Adonai = Sovereign, Master, Ruler

Recognize God's people (vs. 3; 1 John 3:14; 4:7-8, 11; 20-21; John 13:35)

Recognize God's principles (vs. 4)

2. Take inventory of what God is doing (vs. 5-8)

Recognize God's perpetual provision (vs. 5b)



225 North Ave. Norwalk, IA. 981-0699 ~ www.fellowshipnorwalk.org

The video as well as a printable manuscript of the message and this handout are available online.

Recognize God's profound blessings (vs. 6; Philippians 4:11)

Recognize God's perfect counsel (vs. 6; James 1:5)

Recognize God's potent preservation (vs. 8)

3. Take inventory of what God is going to do (vs. 9-11)

Recognize God's resurrection power (vs. 9-10; Acts 2:21-28; 13:35-37)

Recognize God's rewarding presence (vs. 11; Philippians 1:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

Study Guide for Growth Groups, Personal or Family Use

Discussion/Thought Questions

1. Describe (or think of) a time in your life when you really needed God to protect you. What were the circumstances? Was it a fearful time? A discouraging time? A time of great turmoil?
2. In the end where did you turn for that protection? How did it work out?

How To Keep Jesus At Your Right Hand

"I always let the Lord guide me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken." Psalm 16:8

(As you read this devotional by Henry Blackaby, underline key words and phrases that stand out in your mind and heart.)

The psalmist so deeply depends on the Lord for strength and joy that he senses that God is right beside him. In David's eyes, God was no mere abstraction, but a Person actually at his side. Enoch walked with God. Moses kept a vision of God before him. We need a consciousness of the constant presence of God. Not only will a sense of God's presence be a deterrent to sinning, but it will gladden the heart, brighten the life, and give meaning to circumstances.

So, what does it mean to set the Lord always before you? It means that you choose to relate everything you encounter to your trust in God. What you choose to focus on becomes the dominant influence in your life. You may be a Christian, but if your focus is always on your problems, your problems will determine the direction of your life. If your focus is on people, then people will determine what you think and do. In biblical times, the right hand was the most distinguished position, reserved for one's chief adviser and supporter. When you choose to focus on Christ, you invite Him to take the most important position in your life as Counselor and Defender. Every time you face a new experience, you should turn to Christ for His interpretation and strength. When people insult you and mistreat you, you should seek direction from your Counselor regarding the right response. When you face a crisis, you should receive strength from the One at your right hand. When you experience need, you should consult your Counselor before you react. When you face a fearful situation, you

should take courage from the Advocate at your right hand. Everything you do is in the context of your relationship to Christ.

What an incredible act of God's grace that Christ should stand beside you to guide you and counsel you and defend you! How could you ever become dismayed over your situation with Christ at your right hand? What confidence this should give you!

Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail. Jesus says, "Without Me ye can do nothing." Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness,--all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly,--by abiding in Him, --that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author, but the Finisher of our faith. It is Christ first and last and always. He is to be with us, not only at the beginning and the end of our course, but at every step of the way.

Discussion Questions:

1. What words or phrases did you underline and why?
2. Describe the determination David seems to have in having God guide him and keeping Him at his right hand?
3. How would you sum up your answer to the question of how to keep Jesus at your right hand?
4. How would you describe the benefits that come to those who take David's advice and apply it to their life?
5. What are some ways you can set the Lord always before you?



Sunday, April 5th, 2020 – Palm Sunday

Part 3: Psalm 16

- Turn to Psalm 16
- Message Notes – APP or Church-wide E-mail sent yesterday
- Congratulations to Tyler and Cheyenne Hixson – Tobias – born Thursday – 2 lbs. 2 oz. Please pray for mom and baby
- 30 Day Prayer and Scripture Guide

(Slide)



Send me an email and we'll send you a copy you can print off at home.

- PRAY
- Psalm 16, verse 1 is our Memory Verse:

(Slide)



(NOTES)

Background to the Psalm – 1 Samuel 26

This song was written by David sometime after he had been on the run from King Saul who was seeking to kill him despite his innocence. David had the opportunity to end the manhunt by personally killing Saul, but instead he spared his life and as

a result was finally enjoying a season of peace. In this temporary calm when he's finally not running for his life, Davis takes the time to reflect on God and His confidence in the Lords' never-ending care, protection and joy. David's song gives us several important responses to make toward God in troubled times.

MY Story – Part 1: Trouble can come at you in all shapes and sizes. Being chased by older boys in Jr. High

My little story of course comes nowhere near the troubles David experienced while he was on the run or the troubles I'm sure many of you are experiencing right now...

But the point is, during troubling times it's important for us to have the right response and this beautiful song by David provides a template for those right responses.

Like Psalm 46 that we studied last Sunday, the song naturally flows into 3 sections. We're only going to get part-way through this this morning, then we'll pick it up in our Lunchtime Devo's on Wednesday.

But here's the first response we learn from David, In Troubled Times...

(Slide)

4. Take inventory of who God is (vs. 1-4)

Recognize God's protection

Elohim = Supreme One, Mighty One

Jehovah = LORD

Adonai = Sovereign, Master, Ruler

Whenever times are tough and maybe you are on the run, or your back is against the wall or uncertainty looms, do what David did, pause, take your attention off your circumstances and take inventory of who God is.

As David took inventory of who God is, he made 4 responses to God and these are responses we need to make to God in our difficult times. First, we need to recognize God's protection.

David turned his attention to God and he says in verses 1-2, "Protect me, God, for I take refuge in you. I said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have nothing good besides you.'"

David pleaded for God's protection. Why? Because he knew in his heart God is the ONLY One who could protect him. David recognized God as his refuge. We saw that last Sunday in Psalm 46. David ran to God his refuge.

If we were to read these first 2 verses as the original Hebrew language reads, it would go something like this, "Protect me, Elohim, for I take refuge in you. I said to Jehovah, 'You are my Adonai, I have nothing good besides You.'"

David is recognizing Elohim as the Supreme One, the Almighty God of the universe who can handle his distress because He rules over all creation. He is recognizing Jehovah as the LORD (caps) who as LORD knows about all the intimate details in our hearts and minds.

And David feels the perfect presence of Adonai, his Sovereign Master who in spite of the magnitude of His character and His presence, surrounds him with His love, protection and strength.

Let me encourage you this morning to not let your circumstances rob you of the reality and implications of the fact that God is your Elohim, He's Jehovah God and He's Adonai – no matter the troubling times you may be enduring.

They can't change the fact of who God is, and who He is to you, in your life. So do what David did, take a time out and take all this in. Take inventory of who God is.

Reflect on the reality that you have nothing good in your life that doesn't come from God and that without Him you wouldn't have anything good.

Every good thing in your life all has a string attached to it that leads directly to God Himself, every physical, material, and spiritual blessing in your life. This is reiterated throughout Scripture...

James 1:17 says...

(Slide)

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

James 1:17

“He did not even spare his own Son but offered him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?”

Romans 8:32

When was the last time you took the time to thank God and praise Him for all the good things He's blessed you with, recognizing like David that you have nothing good without God? I encourage you to do that.

Say this after me to the Lord, “Lord, I have nothing good besides you.” If you're thankful for God's goodness in your life this morning, say, “amen”.

(Slide)

1. Take inventory of who God is (vs. 1-4)

Recognize God's protection

Recognize God's people

As David is taking inventory of who God is, not only does He recognize God's protection, he also recognizes God's people. READ vs. 3.

When David was on the run from King Saul God blessed him with lots of people who put their own lives on the line to help protect him, and fought beside him, or blessed him in some way. And he never forgot it.

There's an important spiritual principle at work in David's words: God will never let you go it alone in troubled times. God is faithful and He will not let you be alone in your time of need.

When you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, not only does God forgive you of your sin, and guarantee you eternal life in heaven, He also adopts you as His child and places you in His family, the family of God.

Now some people don't understand, or appreciate, the value of these truths, especially the last one. They take it for granted that they're part of God's family and they do that by not fellowshiping with God's family in a local body of Christ-followers – a local church.

This is the purpose of a local church – to be a group of people who are there for each other, to provide support, express love in practical ways, and if necessary, lay our lives down for one another.

Jesus said in John 13:35,

(Slide)

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:35

“We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters.” 1 John 3:14

“And we have this command from Him: The one who loves God must also love his brother and sister.”

1 John 4:21

I think far too many people have taken their spiritual family, their church family for granted in spite of these biblical commands. But now is the time for us to BE the church, to BE the body of Christ for each other like never before.

We hear terms in our society today like absentee fathers, or absentee mothers. Well how long has the church of Jesus Christ suffered from absentee spiritual fathers in the family of God? And absentee spiritual mothers in the body of Christ? And Absentee brothers and absentee sisters who are needed?

We need each other, not just in troubled times, but ALL the time. And yes, certainly right now in these crazy days we're living in, God wants us to walk beside one another as best we can and BE the loving family of God to and for each other.

And when this is over to continue providing the kind of loving support that should mark followers of the Lord and the church of Jesus Christ.

So, in the face of trouble and turmoil, do what David did, recognize God's people – the people He's provided to help you through these times, and thank God for them. And maybe even send them a note or a text or an email of thanks this week. Third, as you take inventory of who God is, follow David's example and...

(Slide)

1. Take inventory of who God is (vs. 1-4)

Recognize God's protection

Recognize God's people

Recognize God's principles

READ vs. 4.

As David is taking stock of who God is, he looks around and he's reminded of all the other alternatives that are out there that He could be turning to in his times of

trouble – the little “g” gods that were so common in his day, like the Baals, and the Asheroths, and many others.

David recognizes God’s principles compared to those of false gods and he determines NEVER, EVER to turn to anything or anyone other than God, no matter how bad life may get or times may become.

Compared to all the idols that people in his day were worshiping, they didn’t even COMPARE to God and to the protection He provides, the love He gives, and the goodness of all His blessings.

And folks, listen to me, compared to the God of the Bible, known by His names: Elohim – the Supreme One, Jehovah – the Lord of all, Adonai – the Sovereign Master and Ruler of all...

Everything else this world has to offer you is nothing but counterfeit religion, counterfeit love, counterfeit hope and counterfeit protection. They’re all little “g” gods and all they do is multiply sorrow upon sorrow in your life, just like David said in verse 4.

Money? It’ll disappear on you overnight! Sports? It’s all hype and activity, and it’s empty. Fame? It’s fleeting and fickle. Sex? Booz? Drugs? Your mancave? Your she shed? Travel? A garage full of stuff? The corporate ladder? The America Dream – capped off by a lifestyle of leisure and easy living?

Let me tell you, anything the world has to offer you will only lead you to confusion, a lack of contentment and an insatiable desire for more that can never be satisfied!

What the world needs is not what the world’s system is selling. What the world needs is Jesus! He’s the only One that you can truly put your trust in. Listen to what David says in the next section – READ vs. 5-8.

Nothing that the world has to offer can guarantee anything for you in the future. But David said, “You hold my future”. Nothing the world has to offer can grant you a beautiful inheritance beyond this life. But David, said, “I have a beautiful inheritance.”

Nothing that the world has to offer you will keep you secure in mind and sound in heart when you’re experiencing the turmoil of troubled times. But David said, “Because HE is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”

As you take inventory of your life this morning, can you honestly say that GOD is your protection? That God the Supreme One, the Lord of all, the Sovereign Master and Ruler, is YOUR personal Savior and the One who is guiding your life?

Can you say with David, “I always let the Lord guide me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”? If not, then there’s no better time than today to turn away from whatever little “g” gods you have in your life and put your trust in Jesus Christ.

He’s the only One who has the ability and the desire to guide you through these troubled times and all the way into eternal life in heaven.

Some of you watching this service would say right now, “Well, I’ve done that. Jesus IS my Lord and Savior.” And I praise God for that – that is what’s most important...

But your commitment to Christ doesn’t take away the fact that you can still be tempted to take your focus off Christ and bow at the feet of the world’s gods. And I’ve seen a lot of believers do that.

They say they love Jesus, yet they give their best time and energy to sports, or their career, or to activities of various kinds, or to weekends of leisure and

entertainment, or to piling up bigger and bigger stashes of money and investments, which are now depleted.

Or to anything that the world sticks in our faces as substitutes for God! David said, "I will not pour out their drink offerings of blood, and I will not speak their names with my lips."

In other words, David is saying, "I want have nothing to do with anything that competes with my commitment to God." And that's the kind of commitment God is asking of us Fellowship Community Church, and all of you watching today.

In these troubled times, NOW is the time to take stock of our lives, of what we say is important to us, of what we are living for, and in the words of one of the greatest leaders in the history of Israel...

(Slide)

*"Fear the Lord and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your fathers worshiped and worship the Lord. But if it doesn't please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today what you will worship. **As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord.**"* Joshua 24:15ff

So, what happened to me all those years ago? In spite of running the wrong way and finding myself with my back against the wall, God heard my prayer. Somehow those boys never did find me thanks to God. And I made it home safe.

I don't know how you've responded to your troubled times so far. Maybe like me you find yourself running the wrong way, turning to things other than God. But it's not too late. Pause, take inventory of who God is, reach out to Him in prayer today and put your trust in Him.

PRAYER

W. TEAM: "BY THE CROSS"

"By the cross of Jesus Christ, every sin was bought at the highest price. Every fear was lost, every sin erased. When Jesus took the cross He took my place."

READ MATTHEW 26:26-28 / COMMUNION COMMENTS

PLAN OF SALVATION / PRAYER OF SALVATION

COMMUNION

As we close this morning, let me encourage you every day this week to read and pray through the Psalm we studied this morning, Psalm 16. Draw near to God your refuge and He will be a helper to you in these days of uncertainty and trouble that you can count on.

Now, if you prayed and asked Christ to forgive you of your sin and save you, we want to hear from you. We're going to send you one of these booklets to help you and to encourage you in your walk with Jesus. Also, let us know if you need a Bible and we will send you one.

I really want to encourage you as we sign off, to take a few minutes in prayer wherever you are. Pray for your church family today, that's one way we can show our love for each other.

JOIN US: ON TUESDAY for our Live Prayer Gathering from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

(SLIDE)

