

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 69 TITLE: "Delivered from Despair"

Intro: BONO & Eugene Peterson. 2015. Discuss Psalms. Toolbox. For moments of sadness.

Main Idea: "Jesus Knows your Despair and will draw near to you to Deliver you from Despair"

To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. Of David.

1-4 - Save Me From Sinking

1 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.
2 I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.
3 I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched.
My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.
4 More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore?

ILLUSTRATION: > *Peter. Walking on water. Looks away from Jesus and sinks. When we take our eyes off of Jesus. We feel like we're sinking. But He rescues and saves us. Matt.14:28-30. "Lord, save me!" ...Immediately > *Slough of Despond. Pilgrims Progress.* "Help." *Holy Spirit is our Helper. Another Helper. Jesus is our Help. Spirit is our Helper.**

5-6 - I Know My Own Failings

5 O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you. 6 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord God of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel.

ILLUSTRATION: *Olaudo Equiano. Fredrick Douglas. Slaves. Confess to their own sin and hatred of masters and "the white man". Even the most oppressed can be humbled and broken and repentant over their own sin. Need to know their own sin. God won't save people just because they suffer and are oppressed. He saves sinners who repent and trust Jesus. No matter your suffering, you can't earn salvation. It's all grace.*

7-12 - I'm a Reproach

7 For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face. 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. 9 For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me. 10 When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach. 11 When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them. 12 I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.

13-22 - Deliver & Draw Near!

13 But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness. 14 Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. 15 Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me. 16 Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me. 17 Hide not your face from your servant, for I am in distress; make haste to answer me. 18 Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies! 19 You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you. 20 Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. 21 They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

ILLUSTRATION: GIANT DESPAIR/DOUBTING CASTLE. "Key of promise." James 4:8: "Draw near to God & He will draw near to you."

22-29 - Punish the Persecutors

22 Let their own table before them become a snare; and when they are at peace, let it become a trap. 23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see, and make their loins tremble continually. 24 Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them. 25 May their camp be a desolation; let no one dwell in their tents. 26 For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded. 27 Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you. 28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous. 29 But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high!

ILLUSTRATION: PAUL - Acts 9 - "Saul, Saul. Why are you persecuting me?" "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." He knows our suffering. He suffers with us. He can stop them at the drop of a hat. He waits in mercy.

30-36 - I Will Praise You

30 I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. 31 This will please the Lord more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs. 32 When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. 33 For the Lord hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners. 34 Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them. 35 For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it; 36 the offspring of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall dwell in it.

CONCLUSION:

This Psalm describes Jesus' Suffering. His Life & Death. Jesus was parched and thirsty for us. They gave him sour wine on the Cross. He cried out in pain to God His Father. His eyes grew dim to the point of death. Who was hated and mocked and beaten and attached and publicly shamed. They stole his garments and cast lots for them. He was a reproach to many and was dishonored by his own people. He was a stranger to his brothers, rejected by them. He was talked about by many and disrespected. He was forsaken and felt abandoned so that we could be near to God forever.

Jesus trusted His Father to deliver Him. He trusted His Father's love and purpose. He defeated His enemies. Put them to open shame by being nailed to the Cross. So that we never have to experience shame.

Hebrews 4:14-16:

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

- 1. Because Jesus has been through every degree of suffering and despair as you,** He will draw near to us in our moments of despair and deliver us so that we can draw near to Him.
- 2. We seek him in humility because of Jesus.** We're glad because of Jesus. Our hearts are revived because of Jesus. We everything we need because of Jesus. We are counted among His people because of Jesus.
- 3. We can praise God because of Jesus.** We can pray and draw near to God because of Jesus. We can trust God because of Jesus. We can know and love God because of Jesus.

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> In 1999 translated the Psalm into modern English of his congregation. For a friend he was trying to teach about prayer. It isn't just being nice with God. It isn't pretty or smooth. But they're honest, and we're not good at being honest."

> After that started translating the Bible. Took a long time. Deadlines.

> Rolling stone magazine. "Who's Bono?" Went to a concert. First introduction to a "Mash Pit." "Oh...Mosh Pit. Show what I know." Lyrics. "Hey I like this guy." "Pretty cool that he knows me."

> Interview opportunity. I'm sorry I can't. I have a translation deadline. "You turned him down? It was Bono!" "Well, this was Isaiah!" Hahahaha!

> They finally met in 2015. Conversation about the Psalms. Peterson's house.

Peterson: "They're vulnerable - in a good way. Open. Honest." "Sometimes we need a way to cuss without cussing. A way to tell people how mad we are. The Psalms do that."

Bono: "The only way to approach God is if we're honest. The Psalms have a rawness of brutal honesty about them. Explosive joy. Deep sorrow & confusion. That sets the Psalms apart. Used to sing Psalms growing up in church. And I think, why isn't Church music more like that?"