

## *My Prayer. My Faith. My Praise.*

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. **Slide2,3** Two of our Hope Ministries are ready to begin. You can register for **GriefShare** or for **DivorceCare** online or on our app.
- B. **Slide4 Family Night:** We are having a family movie night next Weds, Feb 23. We will be watching *Abominable* and are turning the sanctuary into a *mini movie theater*. **Complimentary Popcorn and Red vines**. Bring your chairs and blankets and come have a fun time.
- C. **Slide5 First Responders:** Our First Responders ministry meets on **Thurs** at 7pm in Our **Mercy Room**. If you are in *active service* or are *retired*, **military, law enforcement, fire, medical**, you are invited to our study. It is a great time of fellowship.
- D. **Slide6 Employment Opportunity:** We are hiring an *Administrative Assistant* here at CM. **Please apply online on our website and details are listed on the job posting.**
- E. **Prayer:**

### II. Slide7 **Intro:** *My Prayer. My Faith. My Praise.*

- A. The year **1020 BC** was also a very good year. **But** not because of **Saul**, the king all Israel pinned their hopes on. That year was significant because, in a secluded field in Bethlehem, God was raising up a youth named **David**.
  - 1. A **nobody**, nobody noticed. A **somebody** who would change Israel's course forever. **Because** while the people saw only a **shepherd**, God saw a **king**.
- B. Today you have to check the labels on your grocery items so close.
  - 1. You may be getting less than you thought. Some manufacturers are selling us the same size packages, **but** they are putting less of the product in the box. (eye drops; small potato chips bag/4 chips now?)
  - 2. How something is *wrapped* **doesn't** always show us *what's on the inside*.

a) That's true with **people** as well.

b) **How do you evaluate teenagers?** (which David was) Do you tend to measure them by **externals**?

3. We can wrap ourselves up in the same packaging every day "**nice clothes, big smile, friendly demeanor**", yet still be less than what we appear to be.

C. When David was **anointed w/oil** by Samuel to be king they estimate he was in-between **10-15 yrs old**. Yet he didn't become king until he was 30.

*Nothing had changed ... Everything had changed.*

1. I wonder if as he was walking back to his sheep he thought ... **Wow, The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever."**

D. **Slide8** Allow me to paint the story. **Map**

1. 1) **Gibeah**, David flees from Saul. 2) David goes to **Adullam** via **Gath**, & gathers followers. 3) David & his followers fight Philistines in **Keilah**. 4) David hides in **Wilderness of Ziph**, Saul chases there. 5) David flees to **Wilderness of Maon**, Saul follows. 6) David goes to **En-gedi**, Saul follows w/large force.

E. This psalm arose out of **testing experiences**. It's about the **Ziphites tattletaling** on David's whereabouts to Saul.

1. **David is on the run w/600 men.**

2. Now, to be betrayed by *Doeg the Edomite* (1 Sam. 22) well that's no surprise (Ps.52). But here to be rejected by *men of his own tribe*? Inexcusable! (1 Sam.23 & 26 *Ziphites from Judah*).
  3. And this ... in spite of *rescuing* one of their own border towns (Keilah) from the Philistines (1 Sam.23).
  4. It is a dangerous and disillusioning situation ... but he turns again to God.
- F. It's a song w/a sequence, moving from: *a problem*, to *prayer*, to *praise*. Or from *trouble*, to *trust*, to *triumph*.
1. Our outline: *My Prayer. My Faith. My Praise*.

### III. Slide9 MY PRAYER (1-3)

- A. What a great way to pray. When being *attacked, rejected*, even while being "*in*" the *will of God*.
- B. (1) *Save me by your name* - the psalmist appeals to *God's name* as he looks for deliverance. He trusts that *the name of God* is powerful enough to save him.
  1. Ps.33:21 *For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name*.
- C. *Vindicate me* - the Hebrew word used here, literally means *to judge*.
  1. When used of the innocent, it indicates *a vindication or defense of their rights*.
- D. (2) *Hear my prayer* - a common request in *individual lament psalms*.
- E. (3) *Stranger* - *or* insolent men, rude, arrogant, lack of respect.
- F. *Ruthless men seek my life* - *violent or powerful*, show no mercy, no pity, describes people who oppress.
- G. *They do not set God before themselves* - the defining characteristic of *the psalmist's enemies*. They have *no regard for God and oppress with violence*.
  1. By describing them this way, the psalmist draws a *contrast* between *himself and his enemies*.

### IV. Slide10 MY FAITH (4,5)

- A. This is a clear turning point at vs.4. Here's where *David's faith* kicks in.
1. **Note:** he has to play hide-n-seek with Saul for about 10+ years. **So** nothing has changed ... *except inside* :)
  2. He is now **trusting** the Lord. Warren Wiersbe said, *It's one thing to cry out to God, but it's something else to believe that He is going to hear and answer.*
- B. (4) **Behold, God is my helper** - here now is the *contrast* to his enemies, who have no regard for God, the psalmist **trusts** **God** to help him in times of trouble.
- C. **The Lord is the upholder of my life** - **or** the God is the mainstay, or the main support, of your life today [*mainstay* = a person or thing on which something else is based or depends: *farming is the mainstay of the rural economy*]. Warren Wiersbe
- D. (5) **Faithfulness** *or* **constancy** - speaks to **the absolute dependability of God**.
1. It is often paired with God's *steadfast love*.
  2. Ps 25:10 **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.**

## V. Slide11 **MY PRAISE (6,7)**

- A. **David ends with Praise.**
1. David moves from his *problem*, to *prayer*, to **Praise**.
  2. David moves from *trouble*, to *trust*, to **Triumph**.
- B. (6) **With a freewill offering** - The psalmist **responds** to God's faithful deliverance **by** bringing this *freewill offering* as **an act of worship!**
1. **Freewill**, i.e. **no vow** was included in his prayer. It wasn't, *If you will do this, I will give that.*<sup>1</sup>
- C. (7) **I will give thanks to your name** - the psalmist appealed to God's name in vs.1. **Now**, he responds by *giving thanks to the name of God*.
- D. **What do we learn here from David?**

<sup>1</sup> Derek Kidner, Psalm 54:6,7

E. With **Sorrow** in David's heart, he breaks into a **Song**.

1. His troubles weren't any less (decade + of running). *He never let go of his trust. He clung to God. He waited patiently for Him.*
2. In the middle of a storm, he built a *Bethel*, then broke into **Song**.
3. **Slide12 Habakkuk** end with this Hymn, *Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, 18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! 19 The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.* (3:17-19)
4. **Slide13** “You cannot starve a man who is feeding on God's promises.”  
F.B.Meyer

F. Keywords: sfdsd