

## From Frustration To Faith

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

A. Slide2-4 Hiring *Facilities Maintenance Tech.* DC & GS.

### II. Slide5 **Intro:** *From Frustration To Faith*

A. **Reminder:** lets let poetry be poetic! (I know that's pretty profound)

1. It's a **Community Lament**. A group of people *struggling together, suffering together*.
2. It's a Psalm of **Hope** when every thing looks bleak. (Temple was destroyed)
3. It's a Psalm by **Asaph**, most likely a **descendant** of the worship leader that lead worship for David.
4. It's a Psalm **cut in half** (in vs.12 everything changes). **From** complaints **to** a resounding hymn of praise to God as Creator & Redeemer.
  - a) Or **From Frustration to Faith** (Outline).

### III. Slide6 **FRUSTRATION (1-11)**

A. Asaph bookends **this section** with *2+2 questions for God*.

1. This is a desperate poem, **but not** a song of **an atheist** **but** *the wailing of a believer*.

B. Slide7a *Here is an attitude in prayer, which can only be taken when **the soul** is become **intimate** with God, and come to **close grip** with him.* F.B. Meyer

C. **Why does your anger smoke** against **the sheep** of your pasture? - I'll tell you why, because the people **sinned**.

1. In **their** sin, **they** had defiled **the temple**. So God allowed the Babylonians to **destroy** the **city** and the **temple**. This was the heartbreak of Asaph!

D. **Slide7b** Here we have the *deseccration and destruction* of God's house. Maybe we can make it personal by taking it from 2500 years ago to today. *If our bodies are God's house, how can our bodies be deseccrated and destroyed.*

1. Years ago, I listened to an audio-book (now movie), *The Girl Next Door - The Story of a Human Trafficking Survivor*. It explained how a young 15 yr old high school girl, living here in America (Theresa Flores in a suburban Michigan town), a straight A student, Irish-Catholic, **could be sexually trafficked and completely controlled, yet not chained**, she had complete freedom of movement. [force, fraud, or coercion] *They used coercion.*

a) It was 2 Chaldean young men who drugged her, raped her, took pictures, and when she woke up threatened to send them to *her parents, her friends, and her pastor*, completely destroying her reputation. [force, fraud, or coercion]

b) These boys did their best to *deseccrated and destroy* Irish Catholic young lady.

c) **Now** this example is what someone *did to her*. **Now** what about what we *do to ourselves?*

E. **Slide8** Let's remember Pauls words in 1 Cor.6:12-20 *12 You say, "I am allowed to do anything" - but not everything is good for you. And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything. 13 You say, "Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food." (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. 14 And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead. 15 Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! 16 And don't you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." 17 But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. 18 Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. 19 **Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you***

*by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.*

- F. Slide9a Today the enemy is still seeking to *destroy* God's work. What can God's people do?
1. I think the answer lies in what Asaph called God's people in vs.1, *sheep of your pasture*.
    - a) See *He's* the Good Shepherd, *and He* has given *His life* for the sheep.
      - (1) Slide9b So what defense does *sheep* have against an enemy like the Babylonian army? *Jesus, The Shepherd!*
    - b) Jesus likened His body to a temple *destroyed*. Jn.2:19 *Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up*. Jesus was the sanctuary that man destroyed, *but* God restored.
- G. Slide9c We are also God's congregation - *Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!* (2)
1. Church, we are a purchased and redeemed people. God lives with us.
  2. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, *but* He had even greater things in store.
    - a) *Jesus* came to earth and revealed the glory of God. *Now* He's building *a new temple, His church, and it can never be destroyed, The gates of hell will not prevail against it*.
- H. Slide9d Results: God is your trust. *If you trust Him, you will want to obey Him*.
1. Don't *misplace* your trust in *the world's substitutes*.
  2. The enemy even today will do all he can to *divert your trust* in God.
  3. *But* keep trusting in the Lord *and* rejoice that He never fails. *Warren Wiersbe*

#### IV. Slide10 FAITH (12-23)

- A. The Babylonians had *removed God's banners* and *set up their own!*
1. Slide11a That's what the conquering enemy did in that day. *Just* as we did to Babylon/Iraq with our US flag. [Brooklyn Marine, Edward Chin]

2. All the splendor of Jerusalem had gone up in smoke. **What has gone up in smoke in your life lately?**

B. **Slide11b** (12) Here in vs.12 Asaph stopped *looking around* and started *looking up*.

1. Realizing once again, God was on the throne. God is King. He never fails.
2. *The enemy may be working destruction but my God is always working salvation.*

C. (13-23) Also, Asaph remembered what God has done in the past. Like dividing the Red Sea. Breaking the armies it attacked his people. He let his people through the wilderness. You're gonna rock and provided water. He dried up the rivers.

1. And don't miss, **God's** in control of not only *the day but also the night* (16)

a) A great reminder to us when we go through our personal *spiritual crisis* in our journey toward union with God, like *Dark Night of the Soul*. (St. Jn of the cross, 16th cent Spanish mystic)

2. **Slide11c** Again, God controls *the night* as well as *the day*. Ps.139:7-12 *7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.*

a) **Slide11d** *The night is Yours* - the night of **affliction**. The night of **temptation**. The night of **loneliness**. The night of **despair**. The night of **sorrow**.

*Or* the night of *Losses, crosses, heaviness, sickness, poverty, or a thousand other ills*. (Spurgeon)

(1) *The night is HIS!*

D. (14) *the heads of Leviathan* - a legendary sea monster that symbolized chaos in the ancient Near East. [*or* a 7-headed mythological monster *symbolic here of Egypt's power*]

E. Has the **enemy** been doing his destructive work in **your** life? Is it more so at night than the day? If so remember ... **God is on His throne**. He is helping to deliver you. He is faithful to act as He has in the past. Start by acknowledging His control in your life. *Ask Him to help you, and courageously place your trust in Him.*

- F. I submit we need a new Temple. A Temple *Refurbishing, a Remodel, a Re-dedication tonight*. Will you join me in doing that? [pray through your temple with me]
1. **Lord**, first **reconcile** us to Yourself, *forgive us our trespasses*.
  2. Like Asaph, **reset our eyes** to **look up**, and not around.
  3. **Next**, **renew our minds** to be **set** on You.
  4. **Reopen our ears** to be **open** to Your Spirit.
  5. **Refocus our hearts** to be **pliable** towards You.
  6. **Restructure our thought life** to be **pleasing** unto You.
  7. **Renew our strength** to be **used** by You.
  8. **Lord**, if *our soul is the deepest part of us, that influences and shapes the entirety of who we are*, then **refashion our souls** to be **sensitized** to Your Spirit.
  9. **Repurpose our bodies** to be a **living sacrifice** unto You.
  10. **Recapture our spirits** to be **in sync** with Yours.
  11. **Remap** us so we might fully **surrender**, *not my will but Your will be done*.
  12. **Recalibrate our identity** to be **secured/anchored** *In Christ Alone*.

G. Keywords: faith, trust, temptation.