Whom Shall I Fear? Student Takeover Sunday – Psalm 27

Psalm 27
Of David.
1 The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?
2 When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,
it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.
3 Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.
4 One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.
5 For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.
6 Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
7 Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.
8 My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, I will seek.
9 Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.
10 Though my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.
11 Teach me your way, Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.
12 Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.

13 I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
14 Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

- A psalm of course is a song
- We will not sing this morning, but in singing this song, the people of God are expressing confidence, not only in the ease of life, but in every situation. This is quite contrary to many of David's Psalms of lament and tragedy.
- Like many psalms, King David wrote this from a season of trouble. Yet it is a song of confidence and triumph: because David was not in darkness or ultimate peril because the Lord was his light and salvation.
- V. 1-3
    - God was David's source of both light and salvation. God filled his life with hope rather than darkness and continually delivered him from his enemies. David trusted that God would not only rescue him in his present circumstances but would ultimately save him for eternity.
    - David used the poetic tool of repetition to make his point and bring together parallel ideas. Because God was his light, his salvation, and his strength, there was really no reason to fear or be afraid.
    - David remembered how God had proven Himself reliable in the past.
- V. 4
    - David says there is one thing he desires above everything else.
    - He wants to dwell in the house of the Lord and behold the beauty of the Lord.
    - David's greatest desire isn't to escape his enemies, but is to be with God.
    - It's easy to want God to fix our circumstances without wanting to know Him.
    - TRUST IN THE LORD ALL THE TIME
    - Why do we only seek when WE need it?
- V. 5
    - David knows that God's presence is a place of security.
    - This doesn't mean that following God keeps us from every difficult situation.
    - We can find refuge in Him as he hides us! In God, we have safety and security, even with evil around us.
    - Colossians 3:3
- V. 6
    - David declares that his head will be lifted above his enemies.

    - William Gurnell- “Two things make the head hang down – fear and shame; hope [eases] the Christian’s heart of both these....”
    - Fear and shame are two large tools the enemy uses to distract us from who God is, and who we are in Christ
- V. 7
    - David shifts from that confidence to a prayer.
    - FAITH doesn't mean we never STRUGGLE.
    - David can be confident in God and still be desperate for God's help.
    - God isn't intimidated by our honest prayers.
    - Philippians 4:6-7
- V. 8
    - God invites David to seek His face.
    - David responds by saying that he will seek the Lord.
    - Seeking God's face means desiring His presence and relationship with Him.
    - God doesn’t just want to know about Him. He wants us to know Him personally.
- V. 9
    - He recognizes his need for God's presence.
    - David knows that he cannot live faithfully apart from the Lord.
    - This is a reminder that we need God every single day.
    - We aren't meant to live the Christian life in our own strength.
- V. 10
    - Many scholars agree this is a poetic “What if?” scenario.
    - BUT Human relationships can be difficult.
    - PEOPLE CAN DISSAPOINT US!!!
    - Pay attention to how David points to the faithfulness of God.
    - **But God remains faithful.**
    - **Christ became sin and took on our iniquities so that we would not be forsaken.**
- V. 11
    - David asks God to teach him His way. He wants God to lead him on a straight path.
    - David didn’t ask for an easy path but instead a place of secure standing.
    - He writes “enemies” as “watchful foes.”
    - Following God means trusting His direction even when it isn't the direction we would choose.
    - Romans 12:2
- V. 12

    - David describes people who are falsely accusing him.
    - David is facing REAL opposition.
    - But he continues to bring his situation before God.
    - We cannot control what other people do, but we can control whether we respond in a way that honors God.
- V. 13
    - David declares that he believes he will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
    - David has not necessarily seen the resolution of his circumstances yet.
    - His hope is rooted in the goodness of God. Faith means trusting God before you see the answer.
- V. 14
    - David ends with an encouragement to wait on the Lord.
    - Waiting is not always easy, but waiting on the Lord requires trust.
    - Scripture tells us to be strong and let our hearts be courageous.
    - Our courage comes from knowing that God is faithful.
    - **Waiting on God isn't wasted time.**
    - Isaiah 40:31
- Conclusion
    - "Whom shall I fear?" - David's answer is found in the character of God.
    - 2 Timothy 1:7
    - David reminds us that confidence in God doesn't mean life will always be easy.
    - It means that even when life is difficult, we know who holds us.
    - Because of Jesus, we can know God personally and find our hope in Him.
    - Jesus is our source of salvation and the One who brings us into relationship with the Father.
- Questions
    - What are you allowing to take your eyes off of God?
    - Are you willing to trust God even when you don't know what comes next?

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Colossians 3:1-3: *Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Philippians 4:6-7: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 12:2: *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Isaiah 40:30-31: *Even youths grow tired and weary,*
and young men stumble and fall;
31 but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

2 Timothy 1:7: *For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*