

## Introduction

"There is back again"... unlike though  
not a journey of a young Hobbit...

David takes us on here The psalmist,  
King David, takes on a journey in this  
psalm that allows us to eavesdrop  
on a prayer to God ~~from~~ <sup>during</sup> a very  
troubling, soul wrenching, time in his life.

It's a prayer about guidance

- guidance from the Lord.

Key verses

v. 4 Make me know Your ways, O Lord.  
Teach me Your paths.

v. 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me

If you remember anything about this series  
on Psalm 25, ~~remember~~ remember this:

A prayer for guidance

And if I could leave you w/ this  
imprinted on your minds:

You can trust the Lord w/ it all

You can trust God to the very end.

You may not know how the Lord will work mightily & wonderfully in your circumstances, but you can bank on this eternal truth:

As v. 3 points out: none of those who wait for You will be ashamed.

You won't be disappointed. You won't be let down. God will come through. He hears you, my beloved.

Though it may have not been on David's mind, he is teaching us much about prayer in this psalm.

What do you say to God when you are experiencing a painful period in life, especially as you are discouraged of heart seeking God's perfect will?

Consider:  
Affirming your trust in the Lord (vv. 1-3)  
Asking God for guidance through His Word (vv. 4-7)  
Ascribing greatness & goodness to our God (vv. 8-15)

As we read in Deut 32:4 -  
The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and w/out injustice. Righteous and upright is He.

As we conclude our study of this beautiful psalm, we pick up where we left off. David returns to his initial subject, seeking the Lord, turning to the Lord turns to God in prayer. That is not only does he ask for <sup>divine</sup> guidance but ask for ~~the~~ divine help as well ~~as well~~ deliverance.

But before we go any further please stand w/ me as we read God's Holy Word for us this morning

Read Psalm 25: 16-22

### CONTENT

A Plea for Deliverance

v. 20 Guard my soul & deliver me  
is key

שָׁמַר (shamar) - the basic idea of the root is "to exercise great care over"

here it speaks of God's care & protection

For example God uses shamar in his injunction to Satan not to touch Job's life in Job 2:6

"Behold, he is in your power [Lit. hand], only spare his life."

Now why the soul? Who is David asking  
God to guard his soul?

Answer: the soul outweighs the things of  
earth. ~~or even it~~ ~~even~~ ~~out~~ It outweighs  
what concerns you today.

This has a way of stressing what is  
truly important in those dire & troubling  
circumstances that we will face in  
life.

Consider for a moment the inward <sup>deep</sup> sadness of  
our Lord on Calvary where He cried out

"My God, My God, why have you forsaken  
me?" (Matt 27:46)

And yet He entrusted Himself to no one,  
nothing else but to the Father!

Our Lord yielded up His life to the  
will of the Father, though it was foreordained,  
He nonetheless submitted Himself to the  
Father's care.

Jesus knew as well as we should as well:  
the Lord guards the souls of His people  
even in death.

And so David prays "guard my soul"  
and "deliver me" (v. 20)

5

We cannot; must not forget that David  
was placed in extreme danger.

The man feels trapped. "How trapped"... you  
might ask.

Just listen to what he says about himself,  
the circumstances, and his enemies:

About himself: v. 165

"I am lonely and afflicted"

Ever felt that way?

This is a reminder to us all that

1) we are not the only ones to have ever  
felt lonely in the midst of hardships

2) It is normal and even ok to feel "lonely"

"deserted" NKJV "desolate"

"Are you crazy?" Listen to the promise in Ps 68:7

"God makes a home for the lonely"

Even if you feel deserted, desolate, and destitute  
of all help... who will ~~exercise~~ <sup>exercise</sup> great  
care of you, my beloved?

God WILL!

He felt alone and "afflicted"

He felt poor - "What can I do?"

humble & low - "I am bowed low & dependent on others"

weak.

His name might as well have been "Ishmael" for that is what <sup>the</sup> his name means → "affliction"

My beloved, we are bound to go through such times. Jesus felt this way.

Listen to what David says about his circumstances:

vv. 17-18 -

tsarah "troubles" - a state of very unfavorable circumstance, y a focus on the emotional pain and distress of the situation

metsugah "distresses" - hardship & suffering

ani "affliction" - misery & oppressed situation

David's heart was swollen w/ ~~it~~ grief & pain over the circumstances.

\* Do you see how brutally honest the scriptures are? To think that a man of God could feel this way.

Lastly notice what David says about his enemies -

"they are many" - v. 19

"they hate me" - v. 19

Not only that but the guy is on the receiving end of "violent hatred." (7)

We are not told how his enemies expressed such hatred, but that they did.

Perhaps it is as we have said that his enemies were not satisfied w/ a private put-down...

Notice the phrase in v.2 -

"Do not let my enemies exult over me"

Their desire was for the whole community to join-in in their ridicule of the psalmist and ~~the~~ his God

And so David prays -

"Please don't let this happen, Lord,  
for Your Name's sake"

Who cares about your name?

Consider the Apostle Paul -

- the Jews plotted together to do away w/ him (Acts 9:23)
- they stoned Paul & dragged him out of the city (Acts 14:19)
- [they] "Formed a mob & set the city in an uproar (Acts 17:5)

the guy was mocked & ridiculed  
in one accord they rose up against Paul

he was attacked & beaten

Its not about defending your name, but the name of Christ.

In 2 Cor, the most emotionally charged letter by Paul... his defense came in order that he might proclaim Christ.

2 Cor 2:17-

For we are not like many, peddling the word of God but ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> from sincerity, but ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> from God, we we speak in Christ in the sight of God

Care more about His Name than your own, my beloved.

Read 2 Cor 4:7-11.

Enemies may abound. Their hatred may increase...

but our goal my beloved is that the

"life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh" (2 Cor 4:11)

So what keeps us going when faced w/ such enemies, circumstances, and feelings?

Go back to Psalm 25:14 for a moment

Answer: the friendship of God; God keep us going.



I mean when push comes to shove, when the rubber meets the road, when you are hardpressed between a rock and a hard place ...

9

\* "to whom shall we go?"

It is no wonder David prays in v. 16 -  
Turn to me and be gracious to me.

Then in v. 20b -

"I take refuge in You"

In v. 21

"I wait for You"

My beloved you may be alone i seemingly have the world against you, but know, my beloved,

~~God is WITH YOU~~

God alone saves & delivers you.  
You can trust Him always.

Even if your skin be destroyed,

to those who love God and are called according to His purpose

from your flesh, you "shall see God"

(Job 19:26)

## Conclusion

My beloved, from a divine perspective you can rest assured that God will cause all things to work together for good. He will always establish His good in the midst of ~~the~~ troubles, distresses, and affliction.

But there is a responsibility that is ours my beloved.

It is found in v. 21 -

"Let integrity and uprightness preserve me"

In fact this is what God called of Solomon when speaking of David in 1 Kings 9:4 -

"As for you, if you walk before Me - as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness"

That is where we need to be my beloved.

We are not talking about sinlessness, but a penitent state and a determination to obey God

↓  
All throughout this psalm "pardon my iniquity, for it is great" v. 16

"do not ~~remember~~ remember the sins of my youth" or my transgressions" v. 7

"forgive all my sins" v. 18

11

This determination to obey God is found also throughout the psalm -

"those who keep His covenant & His testimonies" (v. 10b)

"the man who fears the Lord" (v. 12a)

"those who fear Him" (v. 14)

You may be lost in understanding what God is doing in such hardships...

You may not know in great detail, how it will all work out...

but you and I are ~~given~~ led by ~~God~~

His truth every step of the way.

So go back in the Lord's school and be taught His most precious ways and paths that are filled w/ lovingkindness and truth

Draw near to ~~him~~ God and He will draw near to

Cleanse your hands ... purify your hearts

God is your refuge and strength

He is your present help in trouble

Trust Him to the very end, my beloved!