

## Psalm 52-55 – Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Psalm 52** -- To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of David When Doeg the Edomite Went and Told Saul, and Said to Him, "David Has Gone to the House of Ahimelech." 1 Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The goodness of God endures continually. 2 Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. 3 You love evil more than good, Lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah 4 You love all devouring words, You deceitful tongue. 5 God shall likewise destroy you forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of your dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah 6 The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, saying, 7 "Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness." 8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. 9 I will praise You forever, Because You have done it; And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.

- Psalm 52 is another one of those Psalms giving us a glimpse into the heart of David as a man that was after God's own heart.
- Sadly, it comes out of one of the worst experiences in David's life when he was running from Saul who wanted to take his life.
- We have the account of this ugly Doeg the Edomite recorded for us in 1 Samuel 22, when he deceives Saul concerning David.

- Because the lesson of Psalm 52 is such an important one, I think it would be good to spend a little time on how this went down.
- It started when Doeg deceives Saul in accusing Ahimelech the priest of being complicit with David in conspiring against Saul.
- Saul then sends for Ahimelech, who is innocent of the false accusations by Doeg and queries him about his alliance with David.

1 Samuel 22:14-18 - 14 So Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house? 15 Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much." 16 And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!" 17 Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD. 18 And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod.

- Here's where I'm going with this, all these priests died because Doeg lied, which speaks to the deadliness of a deceitful tongue.
- If you're anything like me, and I suspect you are, you've seen or experienced first hand how the tongue can destroy ones life.
- It's for this reason that the scriptures are replete with warning after warning about the taming of the tongue that leads to death.

James 3:6-10 - 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

Proverbs 21:23 - Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

1 Peter 3:10 - For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.

1 Timothy 5:19 - Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

**Psalm 53** -- To the Chief Musician. Set to "Mahalath." A Contemplation of David. 1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good. 2 God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one. 4 Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call upon God? 5 There they are in great fear Where no fear was, For God has scattered the bones of him who encamps against you; You have put them to shame, Because God has despised them. 6 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When God brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

- If Psalm 53 sounds a lot like Psalm 14, that's because it is as it relates to the folly of man who says in his heart there's no God.
- It reminds me of a humorous story about a man who went to court because atheists don't have a national holiday of their own.
- The judge quickly dismissed the case citing that atheists do actually have a national holiday of their own, it's April Fools Day.

- Doubtless you probably noticed verse three, where David says every one has turned aside and there is none who does good.
- The reason I mention this is that we actually quote this every Sunday at the end of our prophecy updates in sharing the Gospel.
- The Apostle Paul is quoting this Psalm and Psalm 14 with it, when in Romans he says that there is none that are righteous.

Romans 3:10–12 - 10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

- Perhaps it goes without saying but by the end of the Psalm in verse six, we have a reference to Jesus as the Savior of man.
- David declares “Oh that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! In so doing he is referring to Jesus as our salvation.
- It seems that David has this anticipation of the coming deliverer and desires that God’s people be joyful and rejoice in this.

**Psalm 54** -- To the Chief Musician. With Contemplation of David When the Ziphites Went and Said to Saul, “Is David Not Hiding with Us?” 1 Save me, O God, by Your name, And vindicate me by Your strength. 2 Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth. 3 For strangers have risen up against me, And oppressors have sought after my life; They have not set God before them. Selah 4 Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life. 5 He will repay my enemies for their evil. Cut them off in Your truth. 6 I will freely sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good. 7 For He has delivered me out of all trouble; And my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies.

- Psalm 54 is a Psalm about God repaying those who rise up against David in meting out His vengeance for the sin of betrayal.
- This is another one of those Psalms where David starts out by pleading with God for help, then ending with thanking God for it.
- In other words, David is praising and thanking God for that which he knows, by faith, God will do though He hasn’t done it yet.

**Psalm 55** -- To the Chief Musician. With Contemplation of David. 1 Give ear to my prayer, O God, And do not hide Yourself from my supplication. 2 Attend to me, and hear me; I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily, 3 Because of the voice of the enemy, Because of the oppression of the wicked; For they bring down trouble upon me, And in wrath they hate me. 4 My heart is severely pained within me, And the terrors of death have fallen upon me. 5 Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, And horror has overwhelmed me. 6 So I said, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. 7 Indeed, I would wander far off, And remain in the wilderness. Selah 8 I would hasten my escape From the windy storm and tempest.” 9 Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues, For I have seen violence and strife in the city. 10 Day and night they go around it on its walls; Iniquity and trouble are also in the midst of it. 11 Destruction is in its midst; Oppression and deceit do not depart from its streets. 12 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. 13 But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. 14 We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng. 15 Let death seize them; Let them go down alive into hell, For wickedness is in their dwellings and among them. 16 As for me, I will call upon God, And the LORD shall save me. 17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice. 18 He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, For there were many against me. 19 God will hear, and afflict them, Even He who abides from of old. Selah Because they do not change, Therefore they do not fear God. 20 He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him; He has broken his covenant. 21 The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, But war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords. 22 Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved. 23 But You, O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction; Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; But I will trust in You.

- Psalm 55 is a very interesting Psalm, this for a number of reasons not the least of which is that David writes about Ahithophel.
- We talked about this back when we were in Psalm 41, however, Psalm 55 sort of fills in some of the blanks as it relates to this.
- Specifically, concerning the deadliness of bitterness and the deadliness of vengeance, both of which led to Ahithophel’s death.

- Here in lies the lesson of the Psalm, which is the deadly danger of bitterness and how it always ends for one given over to it.
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 15 we have the account of how it ended for Ahithophel, who took his own life after the Absalom was put to death.
- The reason behind Ahithophel’s bitterness was that Bathsheba, who David committed adultery with, was his granddaughter.

Hebrews 12:15 - See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.