

Psalm 56-59 – Thursday, October 25th, 2018

Psalm 56 -- To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Silent Dove in Distant Lands." a Michtam of David When the Philistines Captured Him in Gath. 1 Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me. 2 My enemies would hound me all day, For there are many who fight against me, O Most High. 3 Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. 4 In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me? 5 All day they twist my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil. 6 They gather together, They hide, they mark my steps, When they lie in wait for my life. 7 Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God! 8 You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book? 9 When I cry out to You, Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me. 10 In God (I will praise His word), In the LORD (I will praise His word), 11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? 12 Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You, 13 For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the light of the living?

- Psalm 56 is another personal favorite of mine because it speaks to the reality of fear in our lives as Christians, and what to do.
- Namely, that of putting our trust in the Lord when we find ourselves; like David here, in a very perilous life and death situation.
- It's important to understand that David has been found out, by the Philistines, no less, and is facing certain death as a result.

1 Samuel 21:10-15 - 10 Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. 11 And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands?'" 12 Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. 13 So he changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard. 14 Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? 15 Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

- What's interesting about this account is when David fakes madness it actually works, such that, God delivers him out of Gath.
- This is what God does for us in the sense that we may in our Gath, when we shouldn't be, but God, is faithful to deliver us.
- To me, the take away from this Psalm is the power of fear over our lives, and God's faithfulness in spite of our faithlessness.

2 Timothy 2:13 - If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

- One of the things I'm learning in my own walk with the Lord is that fear is the antithesis of faith in that it's either one or the other.
- In other words, I will either be full of fear or I will be faith, but it's not really possible to have both fear and faith at the same time.
- Such is the case with David here and as such, this experience in his life teaches us that which fear can do and what it can't do.

7 THINGS THAT WORRY AND FEAR CAN AND CANNOT DO

- 1) Worry and fear can dominate our decision making process
- 2) Worry and fear can give way to lies to protect ourselves
- 3) Worry and fear can cause us to default to the ways of the world

- 4) Worry and fear can create a trap coming from the fear of man
- 5) Worry and fear can lead to ungodly and irrational behavior
- 6) Worry and fear can bring harm and peril to those around us
- 7) Worry and fear can not have the final word in our lives

Psalm 57 -- To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." a Michtam of David When He Fled from Saul into the Cave. 1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by. 2 I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me. 3 He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah God shall send forth His mercy and His truth. 4 My soul is among lions; I lie among the sons of men Who are set on fire, Whose teeth are spears and arrows, And their tongue a sharp sword. 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth. 6 They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed down; They have dug a pit before me; Into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah 7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise. 8 Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. 9 I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations. 10 For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds. 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth.

- To me, Psalm 57 is a Psalm about how God will prepare us for that which He has prepared for us, no matter how difficult it is.
- It's believed that from the time David was anointed to be the king of Israel to when he actually became king was over 10-years.
- The reason I point this out is because God deemed it necessary to prepare David for all those years before he would be king.
- I think of Joseph, who like David, had to also be prepared for that which God had prepared, but for him it was over 17-years.
- This because, before Joseph could be positioned as the most powerful man in the world, next to Pharaoh, he had to be ready.
- It's been said that there's no triumph without trouble, no testimony with the test, and as one said it, no message without a mess.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 3:20-21 - 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 58 -- To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." a Michtam of David. 1 Do you indeed speak righteousness, you silent ones? Do you judge uprightly, you sons of men? 2 No, in heart you work wickedness; You weigh out the violence of your hands in the earth. 3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies. 4 Their poison is like the poison of a serpent; They are like the deaf cobra that stops its ear, 5 Which will not heed the voice of charmers, Charming ever so skillfully. 6 Break their teeth in their mouth, O God! Break out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD! 7 Let them flow away as waters which run continually; When he bends his bow, Let his arrows be as if cut in pieces. 8 Let them be like a snail which melts away as it goes, Like a stillborn child of a woman, that they may not see the sun. 9 Before your pots can feel the burning thorns, He shall take them away as with a whirlwind, As in His living and burning wrath. 10 The righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance; He shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked, 11 So that men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely He is God who judges in the earth."

- Psalm 58 is an interesting Psalm for a number of reasons, chief of which is that it speaks to how God is the Judge of judges.
- One of the most sobering truths in all of scripture is that there is coming a day when God will judge everyone of us in the end.
- While scripture is replete with many passages concerning the judgment of God upon this world, there's one that stands out.

2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Psalm 59 -- To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." a Michtam of David When Saul Sent Men, and They Watched the House in Order to Kill Him. 1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Defend me from those who rise up against me. 2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, And save me from bloodthirsty men. 3 For look, they lie in wait for my life; The mighty gather against me, Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD. 4 They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me, and behold! 5 You therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, Awake to punish all the nations; Do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah 6 At evening they return, They growl like a dog, And go all around the city. 7 Indeed, they belch with their mouth; Swords are in their lips; For they say, "Who hears?" 8 But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision. 9 I will wait for You, O You his Strength; For God is my defense. 10 My God of mercy shall come to meet me; God shall let me see my desire on my enemies. 11 Do not slay them, lest my people forget; Scatter them by Your power, And bring them down, O Lord our shield. 12 For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for the cursing and lying which they speak. 13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, That they may not be; And let them know that God rules in Jacob To the ends of the earth. Selah 14 And at evening they return, They growl like a dog, And go all around the city. 15 They wander up and down for food, And howl if they are not satisfied. 16 But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; For You have been my defense And refuge in the day of my trouble. 17 To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; For God is my defense, My God of mercy.

- Psalm 59 is a Psalm about how the wickedness of this world should never rob us of the joy in the Lord and worship of the Lord.
- Lest one think that David is disproportionately harsh in his desire for God to punish the wicked, verse eight should explain why.
- Notice David says God actually laughs at the wickedness and as such, David says he will wait on the Lord and sing to the Lord.