Clips from Psalms

Psalms 103:6-7

Praise for the Lord’s Mercies

"Jehovah executes righteous acts, and judgments for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his doings unto the children of Israel."

24 February 2013
Volume 13; Issue 08

Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322-1650

In This Issue:
Psalms 31 .................... 1-2
Local News ..................... 2
The Book of Psalms - Back Cover

Elders
Mike Chancellor
(322-6374)
Tom Witherspoon
(923-6479)

Deacons
Joe Cronin
Jim Hall

Preacher
John Robertson

PSALMS CHAPTER 31

Psalms 31 is a song by David that illustrates a panoramic view of all areas of the king's life. David's song informs us that God played an integral part in every aspect of his life. David is seen calling out to God for help during times of great need in life and we are confident that our God will hear (see Acts 2:21; 22:16; Romans 10:11-13 and 1 Corinthians 1:1-2). When one calls out to God for help they manifest a faith and confidence in God's power to save. To call out to God is to recognize that there is no other to turn to for salvation than our Lord (see Acts 4:10-12). Consider these four areas of David's life where he called out to God for help in his time of great need.

First, David called out to God during times of experiencing great adversity, hardships, and afflictions (Psalms 31:7). David was tried by God with his enemies (Psalms 11:1-5), riches (Psalms 30:6), and worldliness in general (Psalms 17:3-5). When we undergo such tests we ought to be strengthened as we come to know our frailties and great need for the Almighty God (James 1:1-4). When we are tried and tested today there is no other to turn to in life than the Lord (see John 6:66-69 and 1 Peter 1:6-7). Now is not the time to give up but rather look forward to an eternity of rest with God (see 2 Corinthians 4:16-18). God's test are designed to mold us to the image of his son Jesus (see Job 23:10).

Another reason people suffer affliction in this life is because they are being chastised for sin (see Hebrews 12:3-13). David is often seen in the Psalms calling out to God for help when he was being chastised for his sin. The Lord chastised his king with trouble (Psalms 25:18), sickness (Psalms 30:2), and Absalom's rebellion that brought him great grief (Psalms 6:1-2). The more we sin today the greater our troubles in life. Solomon wrote, "Good understanding gives favor; But the way of the transgressor is hard" (Proverbs 13:15).
Secondly, David called out for God's help at times that he sinned (31:9-10). The king's heart was broken over his personal sin. He reviewed his life and admits that the years were spent in a struggle against doing that which is right as opposed to sinfulness. The meek and honest man of God today will admit to the same grievous way of spending the years of our lives. The toil of guilt and disappointment that sin brings wears the body down and brings great grief to God and self. Sleepless nights, with tears rolling down our cheeks, come to be an unfortunate part of our lives. We are weary with disappointing God and our selves. God will help us if only we would acknowledge our sins and repent of those errors (Acts 17:30). There is no other recourse but to press forward in this life and purpose to do better the next day (Philippians 3:13-15). The beauty of heaven will be that Satan will not be there and have no power to tempt us (Revelation 21:27).

Thirdly, David called out to God for help at times when he felt totally isolated from the world (Psalms 31:11-13). Loneliness bears down hard on the human mind and brings a man to desire to be loved and acknowledged. Our hearts ache at the treatment of the world due to our stand in truth. We need our God to comfort us in these difficult days of being different. The Bible depicts this characteristic in the lives of the saints as being sanctified. The sanctified are set apart from the common sinfulness of the world and worldly (see 1 Corinthians 1:1-4).

Fourthly, David called out to God because his enemies made his life miserable (Psalms 31:15). David was the conscience of the world as a man of God. David's songs were read and heard by all and the conclusion of the world was that he deserved to die (see Psalms 31:13). When the king sang of "hatred" the wicked the wicked took notice (Psalms 31:6). All those who live godly in Christ Jesus will be hated and persecuted today (2 Timothy 3:12). The world hated Jesus because he testified of its evil works (John 7:7). Jesus tells us that the world will hate all who expose their dark deeds (John 15:18-19).

Psalms 31 reveals the king's desire to be delivered (Psalms 31:1), rescued, and saved (Psalms 31:2). David knew that God alone had the power to deliver him from all the distress of his life. God was David's refuge, rock, and fortress in this life (Psalms 31:1-3). God was home to David. The king of Israel felt most comfortable and peaceful when he was in good standing with God. David purposed to "wait" out the days of adversity, enemies, isolation, and times of his sin with throughout the days of his life by the help of God (Psalms 31:24). David was confident that God would help him because the Lord is abundantly good (Psalms 31:3), steadfast in his love (Psalms 31:21), and he sees and knows all that is going on in our life (Psalms 31:22). The Apostle Peter tells us all to cast our anxiety upon him because he cares (1 Peter 5:7).

The Unique Character of Jesus

Introduction

Jesus is identified as God in the scriptures (Isaiah 9:6-7). He is also known as the King of his eternal kingdom (Daniel 2:44-45). The Lord's sole purpose on earth was to save mankind from their sins (Matthew 1:21) and to eradicate sin in men's lives by preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. Jesus would eventually die a horrible death on the cross so that we might all be forgiven of our sins (see John 19:17-22). What was so annoying about Jesus that the Jews would desire to kill him? Though many wanted him dead and to remove the memory of his name it would never happen (Daniel 2:44 / Acts 5:28).

I. Jesus was Unique

A. Jesus was not like other kings of the past, present, or future (Ezekiel 21:23-27).
B. Jesus was perfect in every way (Hebrews 4:15).

II. Jesus was Hated due to his Unique Ways

A. People wanted to test him and defame him before others (Matthew 16:1-4; 22:15-22; John 8:1-11).
B. Some held secret meetings to discuss how they could ruin and destroy him (Matthew 12:14; 22:15; 26:4; 27:1).

III. Jesus Handles People in a Unique Way

A. Conversations people had with Jesus - Scribes on Marriage (Matthew 19:3) / Parables (Matthew 10:10-13 ) / Pilate (John 18:33-38)
C. Addressing multitudes in public (Matthew 12:22-34; 15:10-14).
D. Jesus did not fear his enemies (Matthew 23 All).
E. Jesus played no man's games - Souls were at stake (Matthew 21:23-27).
F. Conversation with Satan (Matthew 4)

Conclusion:

The Apostle Paul's admonition to the saints is that we would conform our lives to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). Jesus set a divine pattern for us to follow. He kept God's laws perfectly, spoke truth, was never intimidated by the wicked but rather exposed them boldly, was fearless as the lion of Judah, and never comforted anyone in sin. Jesus' actions and words were often perceived as rude; however, he continued to press man about their sin. The Lord remained faithful to his purpose till his dying day. Let us all do the same (Revelation 2:10).