

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

I HAVE CRIED DAY AND NIGHT BEFORE THEE PSALMS 88

Text: Psalms 88:1

Psalm 88:1

¹ O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee:

Introduction:

This Psalm is like no other chapter in all the Bible. It is a Song of Sorrow. It is a Psalm of Sadness. It is, without a doubt, the darkness and sadness of all the Psalms.

When we read the Psalms we notice that many Psalms speak of sadness but end with singing. Many Psalms begin with gloom and end with gladness, sorrow and shouting, tears and triumph. This Psalm however begins with distress and then the gloom increases as it proceeds.

Notice that the last word is darkness. It is one a psalm of sorrow from beginning to end. It is the only Psalm which we see a poured out heart does not receive relief and consolation.

Whoever wrote this Psalm must have been a man of Deep experience. He knew what it was like to face trials, troubles and tribulation alone.

This is a Psalm that would fall in the category of “Strong Meat” as the Apostle Paul said it. It is intended for those who have grown in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. It is for the spiritually mature.

Note:

1. THE PSALMIST CRY (VS. 1-3, 13)

Psalm 88:1-3

¹ O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee: ² Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; ³ For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.

Psalm 88:13

¹³ But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee.

Notice:

A. The Purpose For His Prayer

- This is the cry of distress and yet his Distress gives him a Desire to pray.

- Remember evil is transformed into good when it drives us to prayer.

Illustration:

An old preacher said one time, “The Devil has driven me to my knees and he will regret that.”

Notice not only the Purpose for His Prayer but also:

B. The Procedure of His Prayer

Notice:

- It was Personal – “God of my salvation”
- It was Passionate – “I have cried”
- It was Prolonged – “Day and Night”

Notice not only the Purpose for His Prayer and the Procedure of His Prayer but also:

C. The Persistence of His Prayer

- There is a tone of confidence in his prayer. As bad as things are with him, he is not without hope, he didn’t stop praying.

This is the practice of the principle that we find in Hebrews 11:6:

Hebrews 11:6

*⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***

Since his affliction would not let him rest, he took the restless nights as an opportunity to spend that time in prayer.

Remember what the Lord said in Luke 18:

Luke 18:1

¹ And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Paul challenges the Thessalonians to this as well:

1 Thessalonians 5:17

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

- Time is definitely not wasted when used in seeking the Lord in prayer.

Notice not only the Purpose for His Prayer and the Procedure of His Prayer and the Persistence of His Prayer but also:

D. The Prospect of His Prayer (vs. 2)

Psalm 88:2

² Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry;

- The Psalmist's appeal was intended to reach the ear and move the heart of God.
- He was praying expecting an answer.
- Why even pray if you do not expect an answer?

This could be the very reason we do not get our answer!!!

How many times to we pray in routine, just speaking words without really having the faith it takes to receive an answer.

Notice not only the Purpose for His Prayer, the Procedure of His Prayer, the Persistence of His Prayer and the Prospect of His Prayer but also:

E. The Pleading in His Prayer (vs. 3)

Psalm 88:3

³ *For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.*

- In this verse he pleads the urgency of his need.
- There is no trouble as severe as that of the soul.
- The most trying anguish is not that of the body, but that of the spirit.

He Has No Peace

He Has No Joy

He Has No Song In His Heart

Notice not only the Purpose for His Prayer, the Procedure of His Prayer, the Persistence of His Prayer, the Prospect of His Prayer, and the Pleading In His Prayer but also:

F. The Patience of His Prayer (vs. 13)

Psalm 88:13

¹³ *But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee.*

- While there is life, there is hope. The Psalmist is not only consistent, but also persistent in his prayer.
- A Hypocrite prays in spurts, but a genuine believe is patient and holds on till the answer comes.

Notice the word prevent here is interesting.

It means to come before.

The psalmist was stating in the morning shall my prayer come before thee.

We have noted the Psalmist Cry note secondly:

2. THE PSALMIST CONDITION (VS. 4-7)

Psalm 88:4-7

⁴ I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no strength: ⁵ Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from thy hand. ⁶ Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. ⁷ Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves. Selah.

A. His Calling in Vain

In these verse he pictures his helplessness.

He feels that God has not heard him.

If God had heard his prayers why would God be putting more on him?

His Condition is so grave that men reckoned him among the dead.

He felt that unless he obtained relief soon, he would die.

It is a sad case when our only hope lies in the direction of death.

His view of things seems to be clouded.

Remember: God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

God never places a Joseph in a pit without drawing him up again to fill the Palace

God never cast even a Jonah into the deep without preparing the means to bring him safely on dry land.

God never places a Daniel into the den of lions without later throwing a rope down to hoist him out.

God never cast three Hebrews Boys into the Fiery Furnace without providing a Fourth Man to walk in the fire with them.

God never leads his People out of Egypt without leading them into Canaan.

God never leads a Moses out to the dead end of a Red Sea without having him “Stand still and see the Salvation of the Lord.”

God never lets a David stand before a 9 foot giant without having five stones of grace ready to knock him down.

God never puts a Joshua in front of a Jericho Wall without giving the Power to watch them fall.

God never puts a Noah in the Flood without his protecting hand to guide them safe to land.

God never lets a Paul have a thorn in the side without telling him “my grace is sufficient for thee.”

God never lets a John be exiled on an Island without showing him a glimpse of what’s going to be hereafter.

God never leads an Elijah to stand alone against 850 prophets of the Devil without letting the Fire Fall.

God never sends 1,000 Philistines without Giving a Samson the jawbone of an ass.

God never lets a Job lose everything he has without giving him double in return.

God never tells a Gideon to cut his Army to 300 without fighting the Battle for him.

God never gives a woman an issue of blood without letting her touch the Hem of his Garment.

God never leads an Abraham to the top of Mount Moriah without providing himself a Lamb.

God never lets a Peter fall without giving him a second chance to preach 50 days later and see 3,000 saved.

God never lets a Steven be stoned to death without having one stand at the right hand side of the Father to welcome him home.

You will never understand all that God does and how he leads, but you can rest assured that he is faithful to his Children.

Close:

The Psalmist finds himself Deserted (vs. 14), Distracted (vs. 15), and in Darkness (vs. 16-18).

Acquaintances may be many, but friends are few. Those who truly love and care for us are fewer still. But let us remember that the darkest hour is just before dawn, and so, when trials are sore, let us trust the more.