

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

O DELIVER ME

PSALMS 43

Text: Psalms 43:1

Psalm 43:1

¹ Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: ***O deliver me*** from the deceitful and unjust man.

Introduction:

There is a question that men ask when the trials and storms of life gather. Often you will hear them ask, "Why do bad things happen to good people."

We all at time wonder why this happens.

As we read this Psalm, it becomes quickly evident that the Psalmist is a broken man. Yet, he clings to his faith in God.

As the Psalmist lifts his prayer to the Lord, he cries out in despair, "O Deliver Me."

As we consider this thought this evening I want us to see the depth of his pain but more importantly the height of his faith in the Lord.

This Psalm offers us reasons to be encouragement even in the midst of our troubles.

Note:

1. THE BELIEVERS CRY (VS. 1-3)

From the outset of this Psalm, we are introduced to a man who is in touch with the Lord. If there was ever a reason to rejoice in difficulty; it lies in the fact that we have access to God.

In Him, we find all the help we need to weather the storms of life.

Let's take a closer look at the prayer this man voiced.

Notice:

A. A Cry for Liberty (vs. 1-2)

Psalm 43:1-2

¹ Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man. ² For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

The Psalmist feels trapped by his circumstances and he cries out to God for deliverance.

We all at times have felt trapped by our circumstances.

I'm thankful that our God is the Great Liberator!

Notice what he wanted to be delivered from:

- From the slander of men

The Psalmist has been attacked by others.

He has been hurt by the words and actions of others.

He ask for God to get involved and to vindicate him before his enemies.

Everyone gets done wrong from time to time.

When that happens what are we to do?

- We are to leave all judgment in the matter up to the Lord, and refuse to seek any sort of vengeance.

Romans 12:19

¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

- We are to forgive and forget the matter.

Ephesians 4:32

³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

- We are to love our enemies.

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; ⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? ⁴⁷ And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? ⁴⁸ Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Not only did he cry for liberty from the Slander of Men, but also:

- From the Silence of God

Often in the troubles of life, it seems that God is totally unconcerned about our situation.

We pray and nothing happens.

We cry out to Him and there is no answer to be heard.

We suffer and still the pain remains.

The Psalmist wants the Lord to speak to him about the situation, but the Lord remains silent.

Remember when these times come, we need to remember that the Lord operates in ways we often don't understand.

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Also remember the Lord's timetable is not the same as our timetable.

God's silence in our lives does not mean that He doesn't care.

Not only did he cry for liberty from the Slander of Men, and the Silence of God but also:

- From the Sorrow of Heart

The Psalmist wanted to be delivered from the sorrow of his own heart. His question could be stated like this: "Why am I letting the actions of a few godless people control my life?"

When we reach the place where our troubles and the negative people and circumstances of life control our joy and steal our peace, we need to ask ourselves the same question!

The psalmist knows where his strength lies.

Psalm 43:2

² For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

He calls on God because his circumstances are beyond his control. They are situations that he cannot fix! Therefore, he calls on the Lord, knowing that God alone has the power to fix that which is broken in life.

There is no reason to worrying over it.

There's no use in you letting it consume and control your life.

The best thing we can do is learn to bring it to the Lord, stand in His strength and watch Him work it out.

Not only did the psalmist cry for liberty but also we see:

B. A Cry for Leadership (vs. 3)

Psalm 43:3

³ *O send out thy light and thy truth: **let them lead me;** let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.*

The psalmist know the way out will be found only if God leads him out and take him to where he should be.

That is a prayer that we should pray as well.

Note:

- He Desires God's Word

He desires to be led by truth and light. These are references to the Word of God.

The Psalmist wants to hear the voice of God telling him what to do!

We too need God's leading in our lives.

- He Desires God's Way

He promises to follow God's plan to the place of victory in his life.

Far too many people hear the voice of God through His Word. They see the path illuminated by His truth, yet they refuse to walk in His ways.

This is a formula for disaster!

Only by consistently seeking God's way from His Word and by living in what His Word tells us, can we ever expect God to lead us from the place of trouble to the place of peace.

Note he not only do we see his desire God's Word and Way, but also:

- He Desires God's Worship

The Psalmist longs to be in the place where he can worship the Lord.

It is hard to worship when there is trouble in your heart.

It is hard to express the Joy of the Lord when you are crushed under the burdens of life.

However, if you are seeking His path in His Word and walking in that path when it is revealed to you, He will lead you the places of worship once again!

I must move quickly but note secondly:

2. THE BELIEVERS COMMITMENT (VS. 4)

Psalm 43:4

⁴ Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

The Psalmist makes certain promises to the Lord. He says that God's work in his life will be answered by God's worship from his life.

Note:

A. He Promises to Offer Sacrifices

Note he doesn't mention some other sacrifice so he must be promising to offer himself as a living sacrifice.

We too should be willing to offer the same.

Romans 12:1-2

¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

² *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Not only does he promise to offer sacrifices but also:

B. He Promises to Offer Songs (vs. 4)

Psalm 43:4

⁴ *Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.*

He vows to use his abilities to praise the Lord.

We too should use our abilities for the Lord.

We too should also teach the things that we have been taught to others as well.

Note:

Titus 2:1-8

¹ But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: ² That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. ³ The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, **teachers of good things**; ⁴ That they may **teach** the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. ⁶ Young men likewise **exhort** to be sober minded. ⁷ In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, ⁸ Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Note The Believers Cry, and Commitment but lastly:

3. THE BELIEVERS CONFIDENCE (VS. 5)

Psalm 43:5

⁵ Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

The Psalmist knows that the Lord is working on his behalf and he knows that in the Lord's time, all

troubles are going to fall by the way side. He expresses his confidence in the Lord in two ways.

Note:

A. A Personal Challenge

He asks himself a question: Since God is in control why am I so upset.

Then he tells himself to – Hope in God; He has it all under control

We need to ask ourselves the same question – Since God is in control why do we worry and fret and get so upset?

Not only do we see A Personal Challenge but also:

B. A Profound Certainty

Even though he is still in the dark valley, the Psalmist knows that he will soon come out of that valley in victory.

How does he know this?

He has his faith in God!

He knows that regardless of how bad it looks right now, the Lord is going to bring him through it and out the other side.

Close:

Remember whatever it may be that you are facing, it will not last forever.

Eventually you will reach the end of that valley.

One day for the believer we will spend eternity in a place where the trials of life cannot find us ever again.

Revelation 21:4

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

But until then lets rest in the Hope we have in God, knowing that He is still in complete control.