

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

GOD IS MINE HELPER

PSALMS 54

Text: Psalms 54:4

Psalm 54:4

⁴ Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.

Introduction:

This Psalm is referring to the time in 1 Samuel 23:19-23.

1 Samuel 23:19-23

¹⁹ Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon? ²⁰ Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand.

²¹ And Saul said, Blessed be ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me. ²² Go, I pray you, prepare yet, and know and see his place where his haunt is, and who hath seen him there: for it is told me that he dealeth very subtilly. ²³ See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hideth himself, and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you: and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land,

that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.

The inhabitants of Ziph, men of Judah , betrayed David to Saul. We know that David is already running from Saul. And he has just fled from the city of Keilah when he learned that the inhabitants were going to deliver him into the hands of Saul. We find him seeking refuge in the wilderness of Ziphim. Ziph was a little town some 15 miles to the southeast of Hebron. These Ziphites were treacherous; and on at least two occasions they tried to betray David into the hands of Saul. They betrayed him by informing Saul where David was and they also put David in a place where Saul could find him.

1 Samuel 23:19

¹⁹ Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?

1 Samuel 26:1

¹ And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon?

These five verses have much to say to us.

These verses were probably meditated upon during the trouble and peened after David's deliverance.

When a man has been saved from certain destruction, whether physical or spiritual, he a reason to praise God. That is why David wrote this particular Psalm. It was written simply to sing the praises of God for delivering him out of the hand of the enemy.

In verse 1-3 we find a prayer. In verses 4-7 we find the answer. Aren't you glad that we have a prayer answering God that will deliver us out of those dangerous places.

David goes from: Trouble to Triumph, Problems to Praise, Running to Rejoicing, Scared to Safe, Praying to Praising, Sighing to Singing, Worrying to Worship, Death to Deliverance, and Victim to Victor.

Note:

1. DAVID'S CRY FOR HELP (VS. 1-3)

Psalm 54:1-3

¹ Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength. ² Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. ³ For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah.

Here we see David calling on God to deliver him out of trouble. Prayer is a salve for every sore and a relief for every hurt.

Note:

A. The Trouble was Unnatural

Keep in mind the fact that these were David's own countrymen.

It is sad indeed when a man's friends seem like foreigners.

His Friends were treating him as the enemy.

The King he had once fought for, is now fighting him!

Like the Paul, David was in "perils among his own brethren."

- Someone said, "The people you love the most will hurt you the worst."
- We need to rely on that friend that's closer than a brother.

These Ziphites were pretending to be David's Friends.

- We better watch who we trust.

- We ought to be careful whom we associate with.

There are many wolves in sheep's clothing.

A False Friend may become a Fierce Foe!!!

- Saul loved David as long as David was doing things for Saul. But jealousy drove him mad to the point that he was seeking to kill a precious soldier of his own army.
- The Apostle Paul said that those Galatians would have plucked out their eyes for him and now they've become his enemy.

B. The Trouble was Unmerciful

Nothing less than David's death would satisfy Saul.

He could not rest as long as David was alive, even though David had done him no wrong.

This is always the attitude of depraved mankind. Kill those that do good.

Jesus Christ went about doing good, and yet he was crucified by those whom he sought to help.

Note: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

2 Timothy 3:1-5

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, **despisers of those that are good,** ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

C. The Trouble was Ungodly

Ungodly means not to have God before your eyes. It means to speak an act without fear of God. It means to do as one pleases without any regard to what God thinks about it. To act as if God cannot see, hear or do anything about it.

Saul ignored what God said. Saul could have cared less that God wanted him off the throne. He could have cared less that David was God's man.

When men come to that place of ignoring God, they trample morals, conscience, justice, and self-respect underfoot!

- That is where we are in America.
- Many have no thought of God in their actions.
- Our Schools, Police, Courts, President, and Congress have no regard to what God thinks, sees, hears or knows.

They have completely and entirely ruled God out of the equation and that's why we are seeing the judgment of God just like Saul! Like David, God's people have trouble in times like these.

We note David's Cry For Help but also:

2. GOD HEARS AND HELPS

Psalm 54:4-5

⁴ Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul. ⁵ He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in thy truth.

David in this time of despair remembers an important truth. He remembers that God is by his side.

David says "God is mine helper."

When the child of God is hemmed in by circumstances, as David was, there's only one thing to do.

- To look within will only bring Discouragement
- To look without will only bring Disappointment
- But to look up will bring Delight

Note Psalms 50:15

Psalm 50:15

¹⁵ And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

That's exactly what David did. He called out to God "Save me, Oh God, by thy name."

"Save me" is a cry for physical deliverance. This was the cry of Peter when he was sinking beneath the waves.

David said "Save me, by thy name."

And God granted David's request and it seen as:

3. DAVID PRAISES AND HONORS

Psalm 54:6-7

⁶ I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good. ⁷ For he hath delivered me out of all trouble: and mine eye hath seen his desire upon mine enemies.

A. Only faith can let a man rejoice in times of trouble.

The most we can do is trust God in the midst of trouble.

The least we can do is praise him after he delivers us.

B. Where there is no trouble there is no triumph.

A Runner cannot win if there is no race.

A Climber cannot reach the top if there is no mountain.

A farmer cannot eat an ear of Corn without the sweat of planting.

A Boxer cannot win unless there's a fight.

A Christian will not appreciate the Victory if there is no Battle!

- Many times God allows burdens in our life just to let us know that he is able to handle them.
- None can praise the Lord so well as those who have tried and proved his faithfulness in the hour of need.

C. David is not out of the trouble, but notice his certainty of Deliverance.

- He puts future redemption in the past tense.
- “He hath delivered” and “mine eyes hath seen.”
- Faith sees the Future as Present.
- Faith sees the Glory of the Future in the Gloom of the Present!

Close:

In times of trouble the child of God can keep rejoicing through faith in a God that we know will deliver us.

No matter what the circumstances, he is God and he does not change. God is our helper.