

HEAR, TEACH, DELIVER, AND LEAD ME PSALMS 27

Text: Psalms 27:7, 11-12

Psalms 27:7

⁷ Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

Psalms 27:11-12

¹¹ Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. ¹² Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

Introduction:

In Psalm 27, King David addresses two circumstances which all of us face at one time or another in our lives; Loneliness, and being overwhelmed by the demands of everyday life.

It is obvious that there are two very different points of view expressed herein Psalm 27. In verses 1 through 6 we have as beautiful a statement praising God and speaking for the changed heart that comes about as a result of contemplating the greatness of God. These verses are a remarkable statement, spoken not as if David is seeing through a glass darkly, but as if the power of God had become crystal clear to him

Verses 7 through 14, however, express a very different note. Here David is calling out for help. He recognizes that this world is a very dangerous, difficult place; the issues he faces threaten to overwhelm him. David's call to God suggests that he was involved in spiritual warfare.

Some people say that maturity is demonstrated by faith that never struggles, by rising above the tide of this grimy world and living in some kind of exalted plane where you are never uncertain, never afraid, never assailed. There are others who are convinced that this spiritual life is tough, that we need to be in the trenches, fighting the enemy, that unless we are ever more vigilant the cause will be lost.

In this prayer we see David express confidence in God's protection, even though he is surrounded by enemies.

Notice

1. DAVID'S PRAISE (VS.1-3)

Psalms 27:1-3

¹The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ²When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. ³Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be* confident.

David recognized it was the Lord who saved, strengthened and sustained him.

2. DAVID'S PLEA (VS. 7-14)

Psalms 27:7-14

⁷ Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. ⁸ *When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. ⁹ Hide not thy face *far* from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. ¹⁰ When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up. ¹¹ Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. ¹² Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. ¹³ *I had fainted*, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

These verses contain two petitions or pleas.

A. The First Petition – Hear me (vs.7)

Psalms 27:7

⁷ Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

He is pleading with God to be his friend, to be near him, to listen to him.

Notice David used the word forsake in verse 9.

David is saying that human relationships ultimately will fail, that if we count on any human being to be our unfailing intimate we will find ourselves forsaken. When he says, "My father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me up," he is really saying, "If anybody ought to be able to remain committed to me it should be my parents, but even they fail me.

In other words without God I have no one.

Consider David's life. His father didn't think enough of him to invite him to meet Samuel on the day the prophet came to sacrifice. Seven sons were brought before him and Samuel finally had to ask, "Isn't there another?" ("Oh, you mean the boy out with the sheep? I forgot about him. I do have an eighth son, don't I?")

Later, David would offer himself in service to King Saul, whom he cared for, only to find that all his service and concern generated such a rage in Saul that in fits of insanity Saul tried to kill him.

David developed a friendship with Jonathan, yet David lost Jonathan through death.

David lost a baby, Bathsheba's son, whom he loved, to death.

His own son led a rebellion against him and tried to kill him.

David's wife ridiculed him in public.

He learned the hard way that even the people he should have been able to count on he could not.

So in these verses David pleads that the Lord not forsake him.

B. The Second Petition – Teach Me

Psalms 27:11

¹¹ Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

He is now pleading with God for wisdom.

David was a very talented, very able man. He was very intelligent, musical, athletic, and a military strategist.

Yet David is saying in this psalm, "With all my ability, with all that I've been given, with all the opportunities I have I cannot handle life by myself. It's too much for me." His prayer to God is, "You need to make a plain path for me so that I don't fall.

I'm not smart enough, I'm not strong enough, and I'm not able to carve my way through this world by myself. If you are not my wisdom then I'm in desperate shape.

This is a real issue for David. He knows that life is hard. He knows he will fail if it is up to him to provide all that it takes to handle life.

David asks for wisdom to handle two specific areas.

- Not to be delivered over unto the will of his enemies.

Psalms 27:12

¹² Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

- He is calling out to God to help him because the false witnesses that had risen up against him.

Close:

After speaking the praises of God in the first half, in the second part David talks about the very real, painful, frightening world in which we are called to live. Not for once is he fooled, not for once does he gloss over the difficulties that this world has in store for those of us.

He then prays for wisdom. Teach me, Deliver me, Lead Me

Despite all the difficulties and the struggles of the world, David had total confidence that God was in control and that no foe could damage him.