

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# LEAVE ME NOT TO MINE OPPRESSORS

PSALMS 119:121-128

Text: Psalms 119:121

## ***Psalm 119:121***

*<sup>121</sup> I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.*

Introduction:

Deliverance is a major need in the Christian life and is the theme of this section.

The bases for deliverance is one's integrity before God.

Because he has keep the divine Word, the writer commends himself to the protection and deliverance of the Lord.

Note the list briefly the list of these the psalmist desired deliverance from:

Oppressors (vs. 121, 122)

Proud (vs. 122)

These regard God's Word as empty or void (vs.126)

Regardless of their denial the Word of God stands true.

As we read these verses we can see the psalmist impatience setting in.

Let's be honest, all of us at times come to this place.

We get fed up, and often think "enough is enough."

Illustration:

Remember Popeye right before he would eat his spinach he would say; "I've had all I can stand and I can't stand no more."

As we consider these verses understand that is a continuous pray to the Lord.

Note the Psalmist makes:

Sermon Content:

## **1. A SENSIBLE SUPPLICATION**

In the last section of this psalm we saw how the writer reveres God and we see again here in this section.

He has an understanding of who God is and he knows who he is and this leads him to respond and request with a special kind of humility.

Notice:

A. He Appeals For Security from God (vs. 121)

***Psalm 119:121***

*121 I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.*

The first part of this verse reminds us of the age old question that many often ask when oppression comes – “I have done what is right, so why am I suffering, why are people oppressing me?”

The psalmist says he is living a righteous life but there are those who still oppose him.

People often ask why do we experience difficulties and why do we experience persecution even when we are doing right and treating people justly.

Why do the godly people suffer?

In the short term we may never know. Our human minds may never truly understand.

But we must remember God has not left us alone. But we can say like Paul after praying three times for the thorn in the flesh to be removed:

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

*<sup>9</sup> And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

In our difficulties, persecutions and trials, our hearts are open and become more sensitive to God's Word and to God's will.

Most often it's in times of oppression, trials, persecutions, difficulties and darkness that we pray most fervently.

If we never had a problem we might never turn to God.

Notice not only did the Psalmist Appeal for the Security of God but also:

B. The Psalmist Accepts Surety from God (vs. 122)

**Psalm 119:122**

*<sup>122</sup> Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me.*

Having done what is right he asks God to do for him what he knows he cannot.

Surety means security against loss or damage. It's like what we refer to today as a co-signer.

Someone who guarantees against loss.

Remember:

Even when there are those that oppose the godly, like the psalmist, our surety our guarantee is the Lord.

The psalmist prays that God would see him through this time of oppression.

Notice:

He does not tell God how to handle the oppressors; he leaves that up to the Lord.

Often we want to tell God how or what to do.

Remember:

God doesn't need our advice, recommendations, or opinions.

God wants our loyalty, obedience, and for us to trust Him, knowing that His way is perfect.

Notice not only did the Psalmist Appeal for the Security of God and Accepts Surety from God but also:

C. The Psalmist Awaits Salvation from God (vs. 123)

***Psalm 119:123***

*<sup>123</sup> Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.*

How many of us can say we have faith like this?

Not many.

Most of us would say; “My eyes fail from looking at the circumstances.”

Our eyes like the writer must stay consistent and focused on the Lord.

Remember again, God is our surety, He is our help.

Note these verses:

***Psalm 27:5***

*<sup>5</sup> For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.*

**Psalm 37:39**

*<sup>39</sup> But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.*

**Psalm 41:1**

*<sup>1</sup> Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.*

We have considered the Psalmist Sensible Supplication, note secondly he commits to be a:

**2. SENSIBLE SERVANT (VSS. 124-125)**

**Psalm 119:124-125**

*<sup>124</sup> Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes. <sup>125</sup> I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.*

Verse 124 speaks of his:

A. Pity

The psalmist uses the word servant referring to himself three times in these eight verses.

He sees himself as being owned by God and desires to be taught by God's Word.

Remember:

## **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

*19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

In difficult times we must desire to be told what we should do rather than telling God what we expect.

Understand:

The psalmist links the need for mercy with the need to grasp the laws of God.

Quote:

Mercy and morality go together.

God's grace and God's principles of living go hand and hand.

The more God does in our lives, the more we want to ascertain what God says and requires.

The more God moves in us, the more we want clear instruction from Him.

Verse 125 refers to:



## B. Perception

### ***Psalm 119:125***

*<sup>125</sup> I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.*

Again the writer speaks for himself as a servant.

- This is his relationship with God.
- He is God's servant and has work he must do, and asks his master to teach him, and to give him understanding.

Quote:

God doesn't need our creativity, He needs our compliance.

God doesn't need our strength, He needs our submission.

Understand:

God wants our willingness to be obedient to His will before He discloses His will.

It seems that the psalmist is saying “God I desire to do your will, I desire to serve you, show me how.”

Notice lastly the psalmist sends forth a:

### **3. SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT (VS. 126)**

#### ***Psalm 119:126***

*<sup>126</sup> It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law.*

This verse seems to present a:

#### A. Threat

Why is it now time for God to act?

Because those that have oppressed him have made God’s word void.

They have pushed God out and have set His Word aside.

This sounds like the day that we are living in.

The world around us has pushed God’s Word to the back burner or even off the stove.

How will God act?

- Ruin – He might bring devastating social and economic situation.
- Revival – He might bring revival and a spiritual awakening in a time of evil and wickedness.
- Rapture – He takes the church out of this world

Understand:

When we ask God to act, we had better be on certain or stable ground.

It takes a very special individual; one who lives close to God, to make an appeal of that nature, only one who walks in fellowship and obedience to God can expect God to work.

I preached a series of messages a few years ago on the request the disciples made to the Lord:

***Luke 11:1***

*<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, **Lord, teach us to pray**, as John also taught his disciples.*

Note they didn't ask for the Lord to teach them HOW to pray but rather teach them to pray.

Understand:

Such a request could involve things that drive us to our knees in prayer, and most often we get real serious about praying when things get real serious.

The more the world sets aside the Word of God the more believers should cherish and hold dear to it.

The more the world ignores it, the more we should submit to it.

The more the world disregards it, the more we should apply it to every aspect of our lives.

Notice also the psalmist speaks of the Word of God as a:

## B. Treasure

### ***Psalm 119:127***

*<sup>127</sup> Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.*

This verse reveals the value of God's Word.

The psalmist states he desires God's Word rather than the world's wealth.

As believers we have the greatest of treasures – (God’s Word) at our disposal.

Next the writer speaks of God’s Word being:

C. Truth

**Psalm 119:128**

<sup>128</sup> Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things to be* right; *and* I hate every false way.

The previous verse place a monetary values on it, this verse puts a moral value God’s Word.

God’s Word is always right, whether we understand it or believe it.

The old cliché God’s Word Said, I believe it, and that settles it.

Again where one believes it or not doesn’t change the fact that God’s Word is right.

The problem with many believers today is not they disbelieve God’s Word but rather they disobey God’s Word.

God’s Word is worth investing our lives in. God’s work is worth investing our lives in also.

Close:

What do we do when we find ourselves in a time of oppression or difficulty?

We should go to God and His Word.

Do we take God at His word or are there some elements of doubt?

Are we obedient to God's Word?