

David, Shepherd and King
#22 David's Deals with Betrayal
Psalm 55
(8/15/2010 AM)

1. David Poured Out His Heart to God in Prayer (1-8)

Prayer Was His First, Not Last, Resort

When a person saw someone in distress but did not help, they were said to hide themselves from them. David realized that he was still reaping the consequences of his sins. His fourfold appeal reveals his deep sense of distress.

- **David felt like he had lost his way**

The word “restless” has the idea of moving backwards and forward, of going here and there. David is conflicted and confused. He is desperately seeking for God’s help. The word “complaint” is not indicating fault finding. It shows David’s troubled and injured spirit. David was audibly crying out to God “moan noisily”. Centuries later the Son of David prayed the same way, Hebrews 5:7.

- **David felt like everything was falling apart**

David was slandered by Absalom and others. The word “oppression” has the idea of weighed down. David felt crushed by those who had driven him from his throne and home. David was speaking of some of his own family and friends, “in wrath they hate me” (3). David was deeply hurting. (4) “My heart is severely pained within me”. This is the language used of a woman travailing to give birth. His words are very descriptive of what he is going through “terrors...fearfulness and trembling...horror.”

- **David felt like he just wanted to run away**

You can’t run away from yourself and you can’t run away from God. Jeremiah felt the same way at one time, Jeremiah 9:2. Elijah actually went and hid in a cave.

Absalom’s Rebellion was like a Sudden Storm that Threatened to Sweep Everything Away

2. David Appealed to God for Justice (9-15)

He Turned the Situation Over To God

David had prayed something like this on the Mount of Olives, 2 Samuel 15:31. David’s concern is not just for himself.

- **David revealed to God his deepest hurt**

Ahithophel and David had been the closest of friends. They confided in each other, they worshipped together. What accounts for Ahithophel’s betrayal? Most likely it was the fact that he was Bathsheba’s grandfather. Ahithophel apparently never forgave David but harbored an inward bitterness, Hebrews 12:15.

Ahithophel’s Unforgiveness Would Ultimately Lead to His Own Destruction

3. David Revealed How to Handle Heartache (16-23)

He Continued to Focus Upon the Lord

(16-17) “As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me. Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.”

Note David’s emphasis upon what God has done and will do.

(17-19) “He shall hear my voice. He has redeemed my soul...He will hear and afflict them...”

David can’t control what others do (20-21). He continues to ask God to do what only He can do. Verse 22 is the heart of the Psalm.

The word “burden” means “what is given or assigned.” The idea is the portion that is allotted to you. David’s personal burden was the betrayal of a dear friend. The burdens are different, but the principles are the same.

- **Turn your burden over to the Lord**

“Cast your burden on the LORD”

The word can mean to roll over or to throw something down and away.

I Peter 5:7, “casting all your care upon Him for he cares for you.”

Peter’s word means “to throw upon”. We primarily do this the way

David did it, through prayer.

It is instructive that the Son of David had the same experience of betrayal by Judas Iscariot.

Hebrews 4:15-16, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as

we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

We Need to Pray Continually and Specifically

- **Trust in God’s promise of provision**

“And He shall sustain you”

The word was used of a nursing mother. God does not promise to remove the burden, but to strengthen us in the bearing of the burden.

2 Corinthians 12:9, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

We want subtraction but God promises sufficiency.

“He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”

This is a double negative in the Hebrew. The word “moved” means to shake, slip or fall.

Psalms 37:23-24, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord,

and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand.”

God Never Lets Go of His Children

David survived the rebellion and eventually returned to Jerusalem. Ahithophel took his own life.

Absalom’s hair got caught in a tree as

he was running from David’s soldiers and was killed by Joab.