

Sunday Night Message

July 1, 2012

Psalm 4

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 4

Introduction

Last week we were introduced to the term - “selah” – which occurs 71 times in the Psalms and 3 additional times in the Book of Habakkuk in chapter 3. “Selah” is a musical direction, and it tells us to pause – to stop, look, and listen.

Psalm 3 and Psalm 4, along with most of the others (all but 34) have an introductory note included at the beginning of the Psalm. They normally comprise the first verse of the Hebrew text (Ryrie Study Bible notes on the Psalms). They were supposedly added after the individual Psalms were written, but we have no reason to doubt their historical accuracy; though they would not be considered actually part of the text.

In the introductory information to this Psalm – we read “To the chief Musician on Neginoth”

The phrase “to the chief musician” appears in 55 of the Psalms, and again also in Habakkuk 3:19 (“to the chief singer”)

Neginoth – most likely means stringed instruments. In Habakkuk 3:19, the word, Neginoth is not transliterated; but is rather translated into the phrase “stringed instruments”:

“The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.” - (Habakkuk 3:19)

Look at Psalm 5 – You will see a similar, but different word – “Nehiloth”, which is thought to mean a flute or a pipe. This word, only appears one time in the Psalms.

Psalm 4 is believed by some to have been penned under the inspiration of Holy Spirit of God surrounding the same context of Psalm 3 – the

rebellion of Absalom. However, the historical context does not hinder the spiritual application. We can all relate to the feelings expressed by the human penman; and we can all come to his same conclusion.

I David's Cry to the Lord (v. 1)

"Hear me when I call" – We see this phrase a number of times in the Psalms.

"Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies." - (Psalm 69:16)

"And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily." - (Psalm 69:17)

The New Testament also speaks much of prayer:

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." - (Philippians 4:6)

However, we must remember that God is not obligated to hear everybody's prayer. He knows because of omniscience the cries of everyone, but He is only obligated to listen to the prayers of His children; and even then, the child of God needs to be in a right relationship with Him:

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:" - (Psalm 66:18)

But it is very comforting to know that we have a God that cares – that hears our cries.

"Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD." - (2 Kings 20:5)

"I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt." - (Acts 7:34)

"Thou hast enlarged me" – means that He has removed all of David's enemies.

II David's Correction to His Enemies (vs. 2 - 3)

"vanity" – emptiness, fruitlessness, of no eternal value.

Remember Solomon – He experienced everything that this life could offer him, and he conclude that it was all vanity.

"Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity." - (Ecclesiastes 12:8)

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." - (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

"leaving" – lies

Notice – "Selah" think about it.

He wanted these followers of Absalom to think about what they were doing. They were following a false leader.

Notice in v. 3 – David is drawing a line in the sand. He is declaring that He is on the right side – God's side, and he is setting the stage for them to choose to be on the right side as well.

Notice that the godly – the saved are "set apart" for God – separated for God.

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God," - (Romans 1:1)

We are set apart for God.

The presence of God sets us apart from all other people in the world:

"For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." - (Exodus 33:16)

Because God has separated us, we ought stay separated from this world. We ought not try to emulate the world. We ought to want to emulate Christ. Why? Because we are children of the King – royalty.

III David's Call for Repentance (vs. 4 - 5)

David calls for his enemies to think about their rebellion against God. Notice "Selah" again after v. 4.

"Commune with your own heart upon your bed" – this has the idea of deep meditation. By the way – this has been called an Evening Psalm for obvious reasons. Sometimes a man doesn't get a chance to think about things until he goes to bed, where he can get away from all of the distractions.

We need to do more communing with our own hearts. Think – meditate.

God wants us to carefully think through any decisions we make for Him.

"Put your trust in the Lord" – if this were today he would have said "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved". David is telling these folks to turn from their sin, and turn to the Saviour.

IV David's Confirmation of His Faith in God (vv 6 - 8)

Notice in v. 6 David asks God to shine his countenance upon them – to show favor. In this verse, David speaks on behalf of the congregation, but in the next two verses he speaks for himself.

Notice in v. 7 David tells us that his happiness has little to do with his circumstances.

Notice in v. 8 that David expresses his security in God. This Psalm 4 is better than "Somnux". This is the best way to get some sleep. The best sleeping pill that you can have has the following ingredients:

A genuine salvation

A good understanding of eternal security

A clean conscience regarding sin

According to Jay Adams, one of the major causes of depression and other forms of mental illness is unconfessed sin.

Service – stay busy