

Sunday Night Message

March 9, 2014

Psalm 57 – Don't Move

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 57 (Read the text entirely before praying)

Introduction

"To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.

"Altaschith" – [אַל־תִּשְׁחַת] - *'Al tashcheth (Aramaic)* – literally means "do not destroy. This word is found only here and in Psalms 58, 59, and 75.

"Michtam" – of uncertain meaning. It could mean "a poem". This is one of several Psalms that are said to be Michtams. (Psalms 16; 56 – 60) Martin Luther called it a golden jewel Psalm. J. Vernon McGee says the word means "engraved", speaking of that which is durable, lasting, and unmoveable.

"when he fled from Saul in the cave" – The context of this psalm can be found in 1 Samuel 22:1 - 5; and Psalm 142. In the last psalm, David fled from the Philistines, and was hiding in a cave. Some say that this psalm records a day in the life of David as he was hiding in the cave because in v. 4 he is lying down, and in v. 8 he is awakening.

One thing that is very noticeable throughout this psalm is David's trust in the Lord, even though he is on the run from Saul.

This psalm contains a lot of repetition of words and phrases.

I David's Prayer (vs. 1 – 4)

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast." (Psalms 57:1)

Notice the allusion to the mercy seat, which sat on top of the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies. The mercy seat was overshadowed by the wings of the Seraphim.

"And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel." (Exodus 25:17-22)

"I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah." (Psalms 61:4)

"I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me." (Psalms 57:2)

"He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth." (Psalms 57:3)

"My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword." (Psalms 57:4)

David often referred to his enemies as lions:

"O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me: Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver." (Psalms 7:1-2)

"He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net." (Psalms 10:9)

"Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places." (Psalms 17:12)

The devil is also likened to a lion:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8)

II David's Persistence (vs. 5 – 7)

*"Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth."
(Psalms 57:5)*

*"They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah."
(Psalms 57:6)*

"My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise." (Psalms 57:7)

fixed means stable. It has the idea of being resolute. The psalm is said to be indestructible and durable. David's heart was that way. He had made up his mind and he wasn't about to change it:

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

"The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed." (Isaiah 50:4-7)

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:11-15)

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."
(Matthew 7:24-27)

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." (Psalms 1:1-6)

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 1:5-8)

III David's Praise (vs. 8 - 11)

"Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early."
(Psalms 57:8)

David got up early to pray. and to praise the Lord.

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." (Psalms 5:3)

"I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations." (Psalms 57:9)

"For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds."
(Psalms 57:10)

*"Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth."
(Psalms 57:11)*

Conclusion

There are going to be many times inside the will of God when it will seem like every demon in Hell is after you. You will feel like everything is going wrong, and everybody is against you. You can do what David did:

Keep Praying

Keep Praising

Keep Persisting – don't quit