

Sunday Night Message

July 15, 2012

Psalm 6

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 6

Introduction

"To the chief Musician on Neginoth upon Sheminith,
A Psalm of David..."

This Psalm is once again written to “the chief musician on Neginoth” (stringed instruments); but this time it says “upon Sheminith”, which is explained by the commentators as meaning one of two things:

- 1 an eight stringed instrument
- 2 an octave

It is believed that this Psalm was to be sung by only male voices – bass voices, which makes sense when we consider the context of this Psalm.

This is a Psalm of lament that some of the characteristics of Psalm 5, in that it is an imprecatory (asking for judgment upon his enemies) Psalm; but it is also the first Penitential Psalm, which is a Psalm that expresses contrition and confession regarding sin. (See Psalm 32, [38](#), [51](#), 102, [130](#), 143)

I David's Condition from His Sin (vs. 1 - 3; 6 - 7)

Notice that the Bible does not specify here what has caused David's condition, but the underlying tone gives the idea that it is David's sin that has caused his grief. Notice that part of David's condition involved his enemies. God sometimes uses people to judge us. (ie. the Assyrians were used to judge Israel, and the Babylonians were used by God to judge the southern kingdom of Judah.

Sin will always bring judgment. Our eternal judgment for sin was paid by the Lord Jesus on Calvary, but sin also brings about temporal consequences:

Loss of Peace – sin affects our relationship with Him

Loss of Power – sin affects our ability to minister for Him

Lots of Pain – sin will cause God to have to correct us.

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." - Hebrews 12:5-11

David was certainly experiencing all three of these, and he expressed them in this Psalm. (Remember, these Psalms are expressions of the writer's personal experiences, but they are also pictures of Israel during the Great Tribulation period; and they are also practical for us today, meaning that we can relate to what David was feeling.

Causes for the Condition

- 1 Sometimes, we can look back and point to a specific sin in our immediate past that is a cause for the condition. (i.e. David with Bathsheba)
- 2 Sometimes, we may not be able to specify the cause. It may be a sinful attitude, or perhaps a general veering away from the will of God. This will require a little more soul searching. There is always a lot more sin under the surface that we are willing to admit is there.
- 3 Sometimes in the Bible there has been a delayed judgment for sin. (1 Samuel 15:1 – 5)
- 4 Sometimes you will suffer for somebody else's sin. (David numbered the people)

"Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites." – (2 Samuel 21:1)

Whatever the cause, sin will bring forth consequence, and the consequences can be very painful, and can bring much sorrow.

II David's Cry to the Lord (vs. 4 - 5)

David acknowledges his sin before the Lord, though he doesn't specify it. You don't have to specify it because God already knows everything about you.

The best thing that you can do when you have sinned, however, is to confess it immediately.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." – (1 John 1:9)

But confession is not enough – we also need to forsake the sin.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." – (Proverbs 28:13)

We need to ask God to help us get victory over the particular sin.

III David's Caution to His Enemies (vs. 8 - 10)

Notice – v. 8 is a verse that Jesus quoted when He was speaking of the Judgment of the Nations in Matthew 25:41; and also in His Sermon on the Mount – speaking to individuals:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." – (Matthew 7:21-23)

There is a limit to the judgment that God will allow upon His children (i.e. Job); but God will eventually judge without mercy those who are his enemies.