

Intro

- ~ 1 Samuel 21:10-22:22 is the context of this section of this Psalm
- ~ David has fled from King Achish and goes to the cave Adullam and there at this cave all sorts of people come to David. They found in David someone they can identify with.
- ~ We could call this sermon “Lessons Learned in a Cave” because this is what David does. He teaches these men
- ~ He’s going to teach his family and friends the lessons he’s about the fear of the Lord in v11-14
- ~ This phrase “the fear of the Lord” is used 30 times in the bible. Three times in the Psalms all by David
- ~ It can seem David emphasized this with Solomon who in Proverbs makes this a theme. 14 times it’s mentioned
- ~ MacArthur “Individual and corporate applications of the Lord's deliverance are found throughout. This psalm unfolds with a praise mode followed by teaching.”

Outline

- V11 – The Fear of the Lord: Learning it
- V12 – The Fear of the Lord: Longing for it
- V13,14 – The Fear of the Lord: Living it

The Fear of the Lord

- V11 – The Fear of the Lord: Learning it
 - ~ The fear of the Lord is appreciation, awe, reverence, and respect for the Lord. Here David says fear for the Lord goes beyond and becomes action
 - ~ Electricity is something to have a healthy fear of. If you’ve been arc flashed or shocked before you’ll develop a healthy respect for it. Electricity is something we need and depend on but carelessness will get a person killed. It’s to be respected and treated with care
 - ~ So a healthy fear of God is necessary for the Christian
 - ~ Fear sees God as great, almighty, majestic, trustworthy, faithful to us
 - ~ Fear for the Lord is more than an emotion but it’s an action as we’ll see in v13,14
 - ~ David clearly defines for us what the fear of the Lord looks like. It’s not an emotion but an action
 - ~ Proverbs speaks of the fear of the Lord and here David fleshes it out so we can connect the dots

V12 – The Fear of the Lord: Longing for it

- ~ David is telling his new rogue and rough around the edges army that we must learn about the fear of the Lord but also long for it
- ~ Just as we long for many things in life we also long for a long and fruitful life – it’s possible by fearing the Lord
- ~ Think about what makes the life the long-living believer different than the non-believer
- ~ The long and good life has God’s blessings of guidance, blessing, protection, shepherding whereas the unbeliever’s life is left to fate
- ~ In the passages on the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, this is wisdom is to sustain a person their whole life
- ~ Eccles 12:1 “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.” The write starts with the youth and moves toward old age. The chapter ends with advice based on considering the whole life. The closing counsel is v13,14, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”
- ~ The fear of the Lord through wisdom takes the long look down the road and see that the final product of our lives is accountable to God our creator.

V13,14 – The Fear of the Lord: Living it

- ~ To fear the Lord is 6 things here. 3 of them are negative commands in that we don’t fulfill this list of 3 things. The next
- ~ 3 are positive command and things we should do.
 - Negative Commands – Running from all evil
 - Positive Commands – Running toward good

Negative Commands – Running from evil

1 Keep your tongue from evil

2 Keep your lips from guile

3 Keep away from evil

~ Prov 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

~ Prov 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

The bible has much to say about the tongue and our mouth (NKJV Passages)

~ Prov 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

~ Prov 10:31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out.

~ Prov 18:4-8 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook. 5 It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment. 6 A fool's lips enter into contention, And his mouth calls for blows. 7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, And his lips are the snare of his soul. 8 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.

~ Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

~ Eccles 10:12-14 The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, But the lips of a fool shall swallow him up; 13 The words of his mouth begin with foolishness, And the end of his talk is raving madness. 14 A fool also multiplies words. No man knows what is to be; Who can tell him what will be after him?

~ Matt 12:35-37 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

~ James 3:1-12 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

Jas 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

Jas 3:4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

Positive Commands – Running toward good

- Leaves evil (v13)
- Longs for good (v14)

1 Run to doing good

~ David could illustrate this lesson of departing from evil by using King Saul as an example of what evil looks like

~ Doing good is doing and Blessing the Lord (v1-3), Seeking the Lord (v4-7), Enjoying the Lord (v8-10), Learning the Lord (11-14), Trusting the Lord (v15-22)

~ When David has a chance to kill Saul he doesn't, when he could have his men kill Shimei he doesn't

~ These rough soldiers of David need to learn the goodness of God

2 Seek for peace (baqash) to search out (by any method; specifically in worship or prayer); by implication to strive after: - ask, beg, beseech, desire, enquire, get, make inquisition, procure, (make) request, require, seek (for).

~ David understand this word seek. This Hebrew word is used often of Saul hunting David in the wilderness (1Sa_23:15, 1Sa_23:25, 1Sa_24:2, 1Sa_26:2, 1Sa_26:20, 1Sa_27:1)

~ Just as King Saul was seeking David, David says to seek for peace

~ David sought for peace when twice he spared Saul when he had the chance to avenge himself

~ Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

~ Rom 12:14-19 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. 15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. 16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
~ Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

3 Pursue Peace – to run after with hostile intent

~ Judges 7:22,23 Gideon and his army pursued after the enemy
~ 1 Sam 7:11 Under Samuel's leadership the Israelites pursued after the Philistines
~ 1 Sam 30:10 David and his men pursued after the men who took their families
~ This word is always used of one army pursuing another
~ So we chase and pursue peace

~ 1 Sam 23:25 uses both of these words, "Saul also and his men went to seek him. And they told David: wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon."

Summary Points

These are helpful words to all souls. I've been challenged with things this week and have found it easy to complain about a lot of things this week. I was complaining about something to Carrie (the blue house across the street) and I started laughing because I thought of the next few verse in Psalm 34 that I'm teaching this morning. When challenged I'm still responsible to use my tongue for edification

1 My tongue is more apt to complain than pray

2 My tongue is more apt to complain in trials (1 Pet 3:9-11). Peter quotes our text here in 1 Pet 3:9-11, *not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For "HE WHO WOULD LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. 11 LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.*

~ The context of 1 Peter is suffering

~ I'm still responsible to use my mouth/tongue for godliness in suffering

3 Running from evil and running toward good has it's context in relationships (Rom 12:9-16)

4 Our tongue can become the rudder that steers us toward either evil or good

5 How then do we get to the root of the issue with our tongue?

~ Sure we can stop short of using our tongue for destruction but what is the driving force behind it?

~ The heart of man is fallen and deceitful (Jer 17:9) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

~ The heart is the root of all evil that proceeds from us (Matt 15:18,19; 12:34,35)

~ Matt 15:10,11 Mat 15:10 When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear and understand: 11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."

~ Matt 15:16-19 16 So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

~ Rom 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

~ Rom 6:11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

~ The answer is the cross daily (1 Cor 15:31)