

Intro

- ~ In v4-7 David describes himself with the words: fears, was ashamed, poor man, troubles
- ~ Davis uses the word delivered twice (v4,7) and twice the Lord heard him (v4,6)
- ~ C. S. Lewis said, "Down through the ages, whenever men might need courage, they might cry out, 'Billy Budd, help me!' and nothing very significant happens. But for nineteen hundred years, whenever men needed courage and have cried out, 'Lord Jesus, help me!' something has happened." Lewis is correct. When believers call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, they grasp the unlimited power of God. This is sufficient to meet any need in life. This is what David came to realize in the experience of this psalm. Holman Old Testament Commentary

Outline

- V4 – Seeking the Lord
- V5 – Looking to the Lord
- V6 – Calling out to the Lord
- V7 – Camping = The Lord visiting us

Blessing the Lord (v1-3) Our response when for the Lord's deliverance

Seeking the Lord (v4-7) in our need seek the Lord. David uses words like seek, look, crying out and fearing the Lord

Enjoying the Lord (v8-10) Taste God's goodness leading to being satisfied and not needing anything (Ps 23:1)

Learning the Lord (11-14) David teaches us what it looks like to fear the Lord in daily living

Trusting the Lord (v15-22)

Text

V4 – David sought the Lord and the Lord heard him and delivered him

~ We notice the Lord heard and delivered David but first David had to seek the Lord

~ Delivered - The word (Heb. nasal) means "to be snatched away, rescued, drawn out of, saved, pulled away" or "to escape." The word was used countless times by David when he petitioned God to rescue him from his enemies who were seeking to take his life.

~ Sometimes we may wonder why the Lord seems absent from helping us and could it be that we haven't humbly sought the Lord

~ Seek the Lord more than deliverance

~ *Ps 20:1 The Lord hear thee in a day of trouble*

~ *Ps 53:2 The Lord looked down from heaven to see if there were any that did understand and seek him*

~ *Ps 27:8 When the Lord said seek my face, my heart said to you, your face will I seek*

~ *Ps 105:4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.*

~ *Ps 119:2 Blessed is the person who seek God with his whole heart*

~ *Ps 119:45 We seek God's precepts*

~ *Matt 6:33 We seek the kingdom of God first. This command from Jesus was set in a time when people had to truly rely on God for their daily needs*

~ Seek the Lord more than deliverance

V5 – Seeking the Lord enlightens and doesn't shame

~ NKJV = They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed.

~ CEV = Keep your eyes on the LORD! You will shine like the sun and never blush with shame.

~ Most translation use the word "Look" here in v5

~ Even Jesus looked up to heaven in Mark 6:41, *"And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all."*

~ We wonder how to have a radiant life for Christ? The context tells us it's praise, seeking God and looking to him

~ When we look to the Lord he will enlighten us

~ When we look to the Lord there's no shame

~ *2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

~ Ironside, "Do you want to become a radiant Christian? Do you want to be a Christlike believer? Then do not be self-occupied; do not be looking in all the time trying to see how you are getting along. If you are occupied with your bad self only, you will get discouraged; if occupied with your fancied goodness, you will get puffed up, but if you look away to Him, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb_12:2), what happens? "They looked unto Him, and became radiant." They not only received light themselves, but also they gave out light. Moses went into the presence of God, and when He came from the mount he was radiant; the people could not stand it. What made him radiant? He had been gazing on the face of God. If you want to be a radiant believer, fix your eyes upon Christ. "We all, [reflecting as in a mirror] the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory" (2. Cor. 3:18). There is not a great deal of radiancy about some of us. We are so grumpy; we are so dull."

~ David caused himself shame by the way he acted but the Lord turned the situation so much that David was no longer ashamed with blushing but now he's radiant not because of blushing but because the Lord delivered and changed David's countenance

~ Instead of being red faced from the trouble we're radiant

V6 David describes his condition

~ David describes another characteristic of the deliverable person - humility

~ David describes his condition accurately – he's a poor man

~ David is able to embrace his true condition as poor

~ The Lord is able to help the needy person

~ We think we're stronger than we really are

~ He doesn't think he's something more than he's not

~ When we think we're ironman/ironwoman it's not possible for the Lord to help us – because we don't need help

~ David says he's humble in verse 2 and here he's a poor man

~ This condition of humility is also referred to in v18 as brokenhearted

~ The word troubles means "to be restricted, tied up, limited, inhibited." Holman OT Commentary

V7 – The Lord sends us help

~ This expression the angel of the Lord appears 68 times in the bible

~ Encamps - literally, "pitches his tent." Gen_26:17; Exo_13:20; Exo_17:1. Then the word comes to mean "to defend;" to "protect." Zec_9:8. The idea here is, that the angel of the Lord protects the people of God as an army defends a country, or as such an army would be a protection. He "pitches his tent" near the people of God, and is there to guard them from danger. Barnes

~ Again, the Lord sends help to those who fear him

~ The angel of the Lord here could have a couple of different meanings

1 This could be a reference to a heavenly angel as God so dispatched in the OT & NT

- Ps 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
- To Daniel with an answer to prayer
- To pull Lot's family out of Sodom & Gomorrah
- An angel of the Lord punched Peter in prison (Acts 12:7)

2 This is most likely a reference to the Lord himself

- In the OT we see pre-incarnate appearances of Christ (Abraham, Jacob, Moses)
- In the NT - Paul said the angel of God stood by and strengthen Paul (Acts 27:23) and when no man stood with him the Lord stood by him (2 Tim 4:17)

~ The Lord sends help to those who fear him

~ In v15-22 David describes himself as crying out (v15,17), troubles, broken heart, contrite spirit, afflictions, no longer desolate

Summary points

1 Seek the Lord more than we seek deliverance

~ AB Simpson, "Once it was the blessing, Now it is the Lord; Once it was the feeling, Now it is His Word. Once His gifts I wanted, Now the Giver own; Once I sought for healing, Now Himself alone.

2 In difficulty be led by the HS more than we're driven by the flesh

~ Here David was delivered and gave thanks to God

~ We can think of another occasion in 1 Samuel when David in weakness went to Achish (1 Samuel 27:1-7). David stayed there for 16 months. He sought refuge in a foreign land instead of continuing to rely on the Lord for protection. This decision by David almost marred his character and his ascension to the throne in Israel. The Lord intervened and used the Philistine rulers to tell Achish to send David away from them in their battle with Israel. If the Lord didn't intervene David would've been involved in the battle that killed King Saul and Jonathan.

3 Don't expect the Lord to deliver you if you don't invest in your relationship with God

~ God responds to our input into our relationship

~ David was deliverable because of the investment he made into his relationship with God

~ Sometimes we put ourselves in situations and expect the Lord to deliver us out of them. David was always deliverable even in the situation with Bathsheba and Uriah (he did pay a price for it) because the Lord's testimony of David was that
1 David was his servant 2 David had a heart after God 3 David always repented for his sins

4 Humility goes a long way in the eyes of God

~ *Matthew 5:3-5 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

~ Blessed is the person whose poor in spirit, mourning and meek – this describes David – does it describe us

~ Even the humility of King Ahab was noticed by God when Ahab humbled himself at Elijah's rebuke (1 Kings 21:29)

~ We live in a culture that has a big chip on its shoulder and is impatient, angry and self-absorbed

5 Some troubles we bring on ourselves, some by others and ultimately the Lord allows it

~ Quote Hudson Taylor in "A Retrospect." Chapter 16 "Timely Supplies

"Not infrequently, our God brings his people into difficulties on purpose, so they may come to know him as they could not otherwise have done. Then reveals himself as a very present help in trouble, and makes the heart glad indeed at each fresh revelation of a Father's faithfulness. We who only see a small part of the sweet issues of trial often feel that we would not have wanted to miss them."

~ He said this in the context of having taken care of a fellow missionary with small pox. Hudson had to burn his clothes and didn't have any other clothes. He prayed and a box of clothes showed up unexpectedly from Shanghai, China

~ Two months later when they spent their money feeding the poor money unexpectedly showed up in the mail

6 Patience is paramount

~ Waiting on God is always rewarded by God but when we rush into our own deliverances we make things harder and messier

~ Psalm 25 is a parallel Psalm and David speaks of waiting on the Lord

~ Waiting on God is hard but it gives the Lord the opportunity to work on our behalf

~ *Ps 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

~ *Ps 33:20 Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.*

~ *Ps 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him*

~ *Ps 40:1 A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.*

~ *Ps 62:1 A Psalm of David. Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.*