

Intro

Background is 1 Samuel 21:10-15

~ THE occasion of this psalm, according to the superscription, was that humiliating and questionable episode, when David pretended insanity to save his life from the ruler of Goliath's city of Gath.

~ While David's quick thinking of playing the part of a crazy man worked, David gives credit to the Lord for the Lord delivering him from the predicament he got himself into

~ THEME: A song of praise for deliverance.

This psalm has an explanation, which is part of the inspired text: "A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed." This provides me with a fine opportunity to illustrate something that the critic has used to discredit the Word of God, which has led many uninstructed folks away from believing in the integrity and the inerrancy of Scripture. The occasion for this psalm goes back to an incident that is recorded in the life of David. You will recall that King Saul was after David. This young man was fleeing for his life and hiding in one cave after another. He was in that region of wilderness down toward the Dead Sea, and not many people can survive in that area. I have been driven through it, but I would not want to drive through it alone. **David was able to survive in that wilderness, but he did grow weary, and his faith got very weak. He thought he was going to be destroyed, so he went west to the land of the Philistines. The king of the Philistines received David at that time, but some of his men distrusted him.** "And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath" (1Sa_21:11-12). David realized that he was in real danger there in enemy territory, so he acted like an insane man. The king was disgusted at having an insane man in his presence, and he sent him away. So David's life was spared at this time. **When David escaped and returned to the wilderness of Israel to hide, I think he was lying there in the safety of a cave, thinking, I should have trusted God.**

Lesson

~ We can find ourselves in a similar situation as David

~ We try to devise our own methods of deliverance from enemies, troubles, hard situations, people situations, car problems, financial situations and when we get to where we wanted to go – we realize we've done it all without God

~ This is what David did – he devised his own escape from Saul

~ Judah in the book of Isaiah was always trying to devise her own method of deliverance from (Is 30:1-7; 31:1-5)

~ When David arrived at his desired end of what he thought could be his deliverance he realized he had made a mistake by going to Achish. That's when he played the part of a mad man

~ The decision we have to make so often is do we look to man or our own wisdom and strength for deliverance or do we look to God

~ When the Lord delivered David he made sure to rejoice in the Lord

Outline of Blessing the Lord (v1-3)

The Lord's Praise includes

V1 – blessing the Lord (When? All the time with his mouth)

V2 – boasting in the Lord (boasting is tied to humility)

V3 – Magnifying the Lord (Who? All of us)

V1 blessing the Lord at all times.

~ To bless by kneeling as an act of adoration

~ Praise – a song or hymn of praise

~ Not just when things are good or on the mountain top

~ We can bless the Lord at all times

~ God's praise isn't only in the heart of David but in the mouth of David

~ This mouth which was earlier drooling is now praising God for his deliverance

~ JN Darby "It is the secret of faith alone, the test of it, to bless at all times."

~ JN Darby "The sure government of God enables faith to bless at all times. He has proved His faithfulness to them that were in distress.

~ Ps 71:8 *Let my mouth be filled with Your praise And with Your glory all the day.*

- ~ Ps 71:14,15 *But I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more. 15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits.*
- ~ 1 Thess 5:18 *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
- ~ Phil 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*
- ~ Paul and Silas sang in prison (Acts 16:25-34) and there was a great earthquake and the foundations of the prison shook
- ~ Paul and Silas were in jail but they weren't prisoners
- ~ What would happen if we truly worshipped and praised God in our circumstances?
- ~ Life throws stuff at us that steals our joy and our reason to praise God
- ~ Blessing the Lord (When? All the time with his mouth)
- ~ David used his mouth to drool and act crazy but now he's using his mouth to bless the Lord
- ~ Blessing God is all the time

V2 His soul made his boast in the Lord

- ~ One of the meanings of the word boast is shine
- ~ David said his boast was in the Lord and not himself
- ~ Not only was his heart and mouth blessing the Lord but his soul was boasting in the Lord
- ~ The humble will hear this boast and will be glad and not jealous
- ~ Rejoice with those who rejoice
- ~ Why do we have a problem rejoicing with those who rejoice? Jealousy, discontentment with our life, insecurity
- ~ Ps 44:8 *In God we boast all the day and his praise his name forever*
- ~ Notice the connection between boasting and humility
- ~ True humility gives God credit and doesn't take credit for any redemption that occurs in our lives
- ~ humble = pressed down in the mind or circumstances
- ~ Being humble will make us glad when the Lord works
- ~ Some folks just seem to have a golden ticket in life. Everything they touch turns to gold and all things seem to go their way and this challenges us to humility
- ~ May we be wary of promoting self and realize that we like David are a poor man (v6)
- ~ Boasting is in the Lord

V3 Magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together

- ~ Magnify means to grow, promote and become great
- ~ This is what businesses do in commercials – they make themselves great and promote themselves
- ~ David decides its worth magnifying the Lord and making him great
- ~ A magnifying glass makes things seem larger to perceive
- ~ Praise makes God larger to perceive
- ~ We have a big God but we make him small when we forget to worship him
- ~ David is magnifying the Lord and he wants us to join him
- ~ Exalt means to raise up or lift up
- ~ When our team scores or wins a game the fans throw their hands into the air and so much more we lift up the Lord
- ~ Ps 69:30 *I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.*
- ~ Lk 1:46 *Mary said my soul does magnify the Lord*
- ~ Magnifying the Lord together

Notice the words David uses to lift up the Lord

Bless & Praise (v1), Boast (v2), Magnify & Exalt (v3)

Conclusion

- 1 David's Worship was continuous (1), contagious (2), corporate (3) *Holman Old Testament*
- 2 David blessed the Lord because the Lord answered prayer (vv. 4, 15), provided his needs (vv. 9-10), delivered him from trouble (v. 17), and protected him from danger (v. 7).
- 3 David blessed the Lord and didn't boast about his own cleverness or skill; he boasted about the Lord
- 4 Life is filled with hard things and these hard things will be miserable unless we bless the Lord
- 5 When we're tempted to complain bless the Lord
- 6 David is inviting us to bless the Lord with