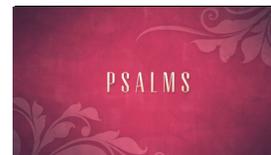


Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Have you ever felt like God had forsaken you? Are you feeling that way right now? Have you told God how you are feeling?
2. Do you ever feel like God is not hearing your prayers? Do you think Jesus knows how you feel? How does thinking about his suffering on the cross help you navigate these dark trials? Who could you pray about this with?
3. Have you ever considered the notion that complaining to God about you suffering was an act of faith? Does this free you to be completely honest with God?
4. If complaining to God is an act of faith, how is this different from sinful grumbling? (e.g. Philippians 2:14)
5. We all experience our own weakness. Do you find yourself grumbling about it? What can you do to bring this complaint before God with faith? How does the cross help recalibrate our expectations concerning our own abilities?
6. Take some time rejoicing in the good news that Jesus has already suffered and died for us! Rejoice further that this "mind" of Christ is already yours. How do these two truths give you boldness to put on this same way of thinking?

RBC Weekend Sermon



Sunday, August 9, 2020
The Decisive Battle for Faith
Psalm 22

Good News: We Have Been Given the Mind of Christ!

- o **Psalm 22 – A Psalm of David?** (Cf. Acts 2:30)

Philippians 2:5–10ff.

⁵ Have *this mind* among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ **And being found in human form**, he humbled himself by *becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*. ⁹ **Therefore God has highly exalted him** and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...

- o **The Perfect Faith through Suffering of Jesus**



Psalm 22 – The Lament of Jesus

- I. Faith in the Midst of God-Forsakenness (1-5) **1st Complaint** (God)
 - A. Why Have You Forsaken Me? (1-2)
 - ✓ What do you do when you feel utterly forsaken by God?
 - ✓ Have you ever considered that **complaining to God** was a mark of **faith**?
 - B. Remind Yourself of God's Trustworthiness (3-5) **Historical**
- ³ **Yet you are holy**, (Cf. 1 Peter 3:14–15)
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴ **In you our fathers trusted**;
they trusted, and you **delivered** them.
- ⁵ **To you they cried** and were **rescued**;
in you they trusted and were **not put to shame**.
 - ✓ Have you considered **talking to yourself** about the cross & the resurrection in this way?
- II. Faith in the Midst of Righteous Suffering (6-11)
 - A. Despised & Mocked for Righteousness (6-8) **2nd Complaint** (Men)
 - ⁶ But **I am a worm** and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
 - ⁷ All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
 - ⁸ **"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him**;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" (Cf. 1 Peter 3:14–15)

- ✓ **Kids:** Have you ever been laughed at for doing the right thing?
- ✓ **At Work:** Have you ever felt the peer pressure from co-workers or your boss to do something dishonest?
- ✓ **Gathering for Worship:** How can the secular world possibly understand how important it is for us to gather for worship?

B. God is Trustworthy, Ask for His Help! (9-11) **Personal**

- 9 **Yet** you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
- 10 On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.
- 11 **Be not far from me,**  for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

III. Faith through Personal Weakness (12-18) **3rd Complaint (Self)**

A. Bulls & Lions Surround Me (12-13)

B. I Am Weak & Dying (14-15)

- 14 I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

C. Dogs & Evildoers Crucify Me (16-18)

- 16b *...they have pierced my hands and feet—* 
- 17 I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
- 18 *they divide my garments* among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

- ✓ Do you think Jesus understands your weakness?
- ✓ At this point, what saves Jesus from despair? (e.g. Covid-19)

IV. **Faith** in the LORD's Deliverance (19-31)

A. Save Me (Sword, Dog, Lion) ... You Have Rescued Me (19-21)

- 19 But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!...
- 21 **Save me** from the mouth of the *lion*!
You have rescued me from the horns of the *wild oxen*!

B. I Will Praise Yahweh in the Congregation (22-26)

- 22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
- 23 You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

- 24 For he has **not despised or abhorred**
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from **him**,
but has heard, when he cried to him.
- 25 From you comes my praise *in the great congregation*;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
- 26 **The afflicted** shall *eat* and be satisfied; (Ps. 23:5a)
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May **your** hearts live forever!

C. Nations & Posterity Shall Serve Him (27-31)

- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
- 28 For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
- 29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
- 30 *Posterity shall serve him*;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
- 31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet
unborn,
that **he has done it. (What?! Conquered Sin & Death by Faith!)**

Jesus Complained with Faith:

1. Jesus complained to God when he felt forsaken by God.
2. Jesus complained to God when his faith was mocked & people rejected him.
3. Jesus complained to God about his weakness.

Jesus Rehearsed His Father's Trustworthiness

Jesus Asked for Help

Jesus Waited for God's Help

Jesus Was Granted Help (i.e. the Faith He Needed)

God has given this faith to us (for & in us), so embrace it!

Philippians 2:5

5 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours** in Christ Jesus...

1 Peter 3:14-15

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. **Have no fear of them**, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but **in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy**, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

Next Sunday: Psalm 23 – "The Joy & Peace of Faith"