

Walking With The King

Session 21: Let Us Exalt His Name Together (Psalm 34)

About Psalm 34

- One of the favorite and most poetic, widely-quoted of the Psalms.
- Backstory: this psalm expresses David's heart after God delivered him from the camp of the Philistines (1 Samuel 21).
 - David was on the run and pretended insanity at the Philistine city of Gath. The King of Gath then sent him away unharmed.
 - Let's not be too hard on David here.

A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed. 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. 3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

- A fundamental truth: we worship God because He is **worthy** of praise.
- A second truth: we praise Him continually because He is **always** worthy of it.
- David is talking about praising God out loud. Most of the praise in the Bible was out loud... and some of it was **quite** loud!
- *Halal* praise is “clamorously foolish.”
- Question... do our souls boast in God?
- Worship is a group activity, and so David summons all believers to join in praise.

4 I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed. 6 This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

- God did not always deliver David from **situations** right away but He did deliver him from his fears.
- When we turn our face to His, we become radiant!
- Cry out to Him and be saved... a simple success formula!
- David connects angelic deliverances with calling out to God. Thank God we are surrounded by His armies.
- Who is the Angel of the LORD in this passage?

8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! 9 Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

- He encourages us to experience God by comparing knowing God to the act of tasting something.
- We are called upon next to fear God. If we do so, we will not lack anything.

11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. 12 Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

- David now begins to provide moral instruction. The fear of the Lord must be **taught** to people; it's not something we're born with!
 - The reward for the fear of the Lord is living a long life and seeing good. But notice how David started his instruction in the fear of the Lord – he tied it to making sure they did not misuse their tongues!
 - Verse 14 – it's not enough to leave evil, we must follow and pursue what is good.
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15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. 20 He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken.

- The eyes and ears of the Lord are open to us. God will answer our prayer and bring down the evil of this world through our intercession.
- God is especially near to those who have a broken heart and are crushed in spirit.
- Jesus said that in the world we would have tribulation. It is through much tribulation [literally, *pressure*] that we enter the Kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)
We are appointed for persecution.
- Verse 20 is also a Messianic prophecy: none of Jesus' bones were broken.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. 22 The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

- The wicked shall be undone by the very evil they are trafficking in. Ultimately, those who hate the righteous shall be judged. But no one who trusts the Lord will be condemned. cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)
 - God knows how to make a difference between the righteous and the wicked, and in the age to come He will bring every hidden thing to light and judge every man according to his own work.
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