

Reading:

Psalm 38:1-22

Introduction

- 1) It is often said that David is a type of the Lord Jesus, but this is only true to a certain extent. He was not a type when he came under the influence of Satan and had him count the people and receive the discipline of God (1 Chron. 21:1, 9-26), nevertheless, he was in other ways a lovely picture of the Lord.
- 2) On the practical level he was a man subject to like passions as we are, subject to failure as with Bathsheba. However, God in grace took this failing man and caused his failures to turn to the spiritual enrichment of the man as can be seen in the reading of the Psalms he wrote. Indeed, he alone is spoken of as: "Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Sam. 23:1)
- 3) One of the attitudes and actions of the flesh is to apply messages to others and talk about others when there is a real need to apply the truths of scripture to ourselves. (Psa. 38:18)

His Remembrance

The first observation is the heading of Psalm 38 - "To Bring to Remembrance"

1) Memory:

- a) The call to remembrance is spoken oftentimes in the Psalms (Psa. 30:4; 70:1; 77:6; 97:12) and the failure to do so is one of the sins mentioned in Psa. 78:42; 106:7.
- b) The path of the believer is not always in the sunlight, there are many dark nights to go through.
- c) This was a very dark night for David and memory was torture. He was living with the haunting memories of the past (vv. 5-8), he was a broken man (vv. 8-10); many had shunned him to the point of death (vv. 11-12), and the judgment of God was sore upon him (vv. 1-3).
- d) How many saints live with the haunting memories of days, actions, words, and attitudes which can never be put right or changed?
- e) Life is so lonely and God seems so remote and in those times we wonder, "Where is God?", "Why did He let this happen?"
- f) Then there are those times when it is not haunting memories that bring dark days and nights, it can be the loss of a job, the failing of health, the death of a loved one, and all the lovely promises of God seem so empty, and we ask: "Where is the comforting presence of God?"

2) The timing of the remembrance:

- a) From how this is written it appears that this is David's musings after the dark night, of his emotional and spiritual turmoil during it.
- b) It is a vital lesson for spiritual development, remember the dark times and recall the sustaining hand of God in strengthening and bringing you through them.
- c) There may be times when we snap back at God for the pathway, but perhaps an illustration will help. In the Middle East when a sheep would continually run away, the Shepherd would break one of it's legs. For a day or so the sheep would snap at the Shepherd for hurting it, but soon come to realize that the Shepherd was it's only source of food and protection. The Shepherd would start to carry the sheep on His shoulders, and soon after, the animal would learn to Love and Obey the Shepherd.
- d) Shirley Caesar sang a beautiful hymn regarding the dark days of life and the sustaining God.

You feel down and feel like God has somehow forgotten
That you are faced with circumstances that you cannot get through
Right now it seems that there's no way out and you're going under
But proven time and time again, that He'll take care of you.

Sermon Outlines

David

Chorus:

*And He'll do it again, He'll do it again
Just take a look, at where you are now
And where you've been
Well hasn't He always come through for you
He's the same now as then
You may not know how, You may not know when
But He'll do it again.*

God knows the things that you've been going through, and how you're hurting
He understand just how you're heart has been broken in two
But He's the God of the stars, of the sun and the sea, and He is your Father
He'll calm your storm, and He'll find a way and He'll fix it for you.

- e) In those dark hours Paul learnt: "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Cor. 12:9). Thank God He does not leave us in the dark valley but will bring us through.
- f) When God brings us through - do we forget - or do we remember? It should strengthen our faith and more dependent on God's grace for the future.

His Education

- 1) David had learnt something of fearing God, and in that learning he speaks of God using three names: LORD, Lord, God.
 - a) Due to space we will only consider the name LORD. The first time this name is used is in the second creation narrative where God is seen not only as creator, but the God of morality. When the name of the Lord is written in all capitals it is usually His name Jehovah. This beautiful name is used in the following contexts:
 - i) In Psa. 37 this name is used constantly and gives us some insights into its richness. I can:
 1. Trust in Jehovah (v.3) for he can supply all my needs
 2. Delight in Jehovah (v.4) for He can fulfill all my desires
 3. Commit my way unto Jehovah (v.5) for He accomplishes all things
 4. Rest in Jehovah (v.7) for He looks after his saints
 5. Wait on Jehovah (v.9) for He is the bestower of all blessings
 6. Look unto Jehovah (v.34) for He rewards those who wait upon Him
 7. Trust in Jehovah (v.40), for faith sees all through the eyes of grace.
- 2) The second thing which David learnt was to plead the mercy of God.
 - a) He acknowledges the "wrath of God" (v.1); the "anger of God" (v.3); the "hot displeasure" (v.1); that it is the hand of God that "presseth me sore" (v.2).
 - b) In Psalm 6 he cries to God to have mercy (v.6) for the storm is more than he can endure. His sense of guilt and grief have gone over his head, like that of a drowning man when the waters overflow him (v.4).
 - c) As if things are not bad enough, he feels his corruption (v.5); he experiences being forsaken by his kinsmen (v.12); the enemy closes in around him (vv.12, 19-20); and he has no argument against their reproofs (v.14).

His Repentance

David now confesses his sin (v.3, 18), calling it: "my iniquity" (v.18)

- a) He takes personal responsibility, there is no blaming of circumstances on others, or making excuses, it was, "my sin"
- b) It seems to me that the hardest words in any language are: "I am wrong" and "I am sorry"
- c) While we never have to ask for forgiveness, we must confess (1 Jn. 1:7-9)

- d) God is holy and sin is an act of arrogant rebellion, and God will not tolerate it in the life of a believer.
 - i) Some people are sorry because they're caught as Achan was (Josh 7:20)
 - ii) Some people are sorry because of the consequences as Judas was (Matt. 27:5)
- e) Thank God we have a God who, like the prodigal's Father, is ready and willing to restore us, opening wide His arms of love and reassuring us of His unreserved forgiveness.

. . . . This is a development of thoughts after listening to another speaker

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia