**A Psalm of Prayer, Praise, & Petition** (Part III)

***Psalm 25:15-22***

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*January 19, 2022 p.m.*

Introduction: We come tonight to our third look at this Psalm, which brings us to the plea of David (:15-22). We have previously considered his prayer (:1-7 > his place of trust; his prayer for truth; & his plea for mercy) & his perspective (:8-14 > on the Lord’s instruction, compassion, & revelation). The Psalm is in the form of an acrostic. Why? “The effect is beauty, order, memorability, & a sense of thoroughness (‘A to Z’)” (Grace & Truth Study Bible). Having begun with prayer & continued in prayer, David now closes with prayer. I call this section his plea > for benevolence (*“mercy”*), deliverance, & confidence.

 I. David’s plea for **benevolence** (*“mercy”*) – (:15-16)

 A. Note his focus (:15a) > *“Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD.”*

 1. He is looking to the Lord in expectation, waiting in hope.

 2. “Happy are those whose eyes are never removed from their Lord” (Spurgeon).

 Illustration: Peter walking on the water – Matthew 14:24-33.

 B. Note his *“feet”* (:15b) > *“He shall pluck my feet out of the net.”*

 1. The word *“net”* often symbolically suggests temptation.

 2. “Release me from the entanglements & perplexities of life, whether due to my own faults or to

 the hostility of enemies” (Kirkpatrick).

 C. Note his fear (:16) > *“For I am desolate & afflicted.”*

 1. *“Desolate”*

 a. Speaks of loneliness; being solitary.

 b. “Those who have never had to exercise authority & make difficult decisions involving

 other people sometimes overlook the loneliness of leadership” (Wiersbe).

 2. *“Afflicted”*

 a. Speaks of humiliation; poor, humble, lowly, needy.

 b. *“Have mercy upon me”* – David prays: “Deal graciously with me, show me favor, have

 pity upon me” (Plumer).

 II. David’s plea for **deliverance** (:17-19)

 A. From emotional distress (?) – (:17)

 1. *“The troubles of my heart are enlarged”* – relation of emotional & physical heart problems

 (my sister Connie).

 2. “God can heal a broken heart if we give Him all the pieces & let Him have His way”

 (Wiersbe).

 B. From spiritual distress – (:18)

 1. “No solid foundation can ever be laid for settled peace, so long as sin remains unpardoned”

 (Plumer). See also verse 7.

 2. David’s prayer, *“forgive all my sins,”* is “the cry of a soul that is more sick of sin than of pain,

 & would sooner be forgiven than healed” (Spurgeon). See Pro. 28:13 & cf. 17:22.

 C. From continual detractors (*“enemies”*) – (:19)

 1. *“Consider”* - look upon; watch them; defeat them?

 2. *“Cruel hatred”* – literally “a hatred of violence.”

 Summary: This is “hatred inspired by & leading to cruelty” (Kirkpatrick).

 Illustration: Absalom’s “hatred” of David? See II Samuel 15; 16:21; & contrast with David’s

 love of his son, II Samuel 18:33.

III. David’s plea for **confidence** (:20-21)

 A. His place of trust (:20 & cf. :1-2)

 1. The keeping of his soul:
 a. Similar to the disciples’ prayer of Matthew 6:13? *“And lead us not into temptation, but*

 *deliver us from evil…”*

 b. David does not want to be subject to shame or ridicule for falling into sin.

 2. The placing of his trust: *“…for I put my trust in Thee.”*

 B. His plea for preservation (:21)

 1. David’s desire for *“integrity”*:

 a. Whole-hearted obedience.

 b. “Honesty is the best policy” (even among the unsaved).

 2. David’s desire for *“uprightness”*:

 a. Honorable behavior.

 b. Consider Job’s testimony – Job 1:1 & 2:3.

 Summary: *“…for I wait on Thee”* – “I have hope in Thee.” “To lose hope is to surrender the

 future to the enemy, & that only destroys the meaning of the present” (Wiersbe).

 “To pretend to wait on God without holiness of life is religious hypocrisy, & to trust to our

 integrity without calling upon God is presumptuous atheism” (Spurgeon).

Conclusion: The Psalm closes with, *“Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.”* To *“redeem”* is to rescue &/or protect. Ultimate redemption is found only in Christ. Having prayed for himself, now David prays for his people. He adds this prayer to his own personal testimony & trials for Israel to be encour-aged as well. “We never honor Him more, nor please Him better than when in trouble & darkness we still trust Him & believe that He will do all things well” (Plumer).

 One of the themes in this Psalm is the fear of the Lord. “If we fear Him, He will lead us. To fear God is to factor Him into every thought & situation, to live in the reality of God. It is not a terror that keeps us distant from God, but a friendship that brings us under His intimate guidance” (Reformation Study Bible).

The key verse is 25:14, *“The secret of the LORD is with them fear Him; & He will shew them His covenant.”* Are you in that number?