

October 4, 2020

Pastor Steve Hardy

“Resting Through Affliction”

Psalm 3

Series: “Psalms”

Scripture Reading: Psalms 3 and 4

As Pastor Andy said last week, faith will always face challenges while we live in this world. Those challenges must be met with the choice to trust God in the midst of them—but then what happens? Does everyone live happily ever after? David’s experience is recounted in several Psalms linked directly to life events he faced, the first being Psalm 3 where we learn...

- I. _____ are a part of life, vv. 1-2 (see Jesus’ warning, John 16:33).
 - A. Some of these we _____ for ourselves!
 - B. Some of these are _____ of ourselves, see Psalm 34.
 - C. Some of these _____ in a broken world.

- II. _____ is available, vv. 3-4; 7-8.
 - A. Through faith, God is my _____
 - B. Through faith, God is my _____.
 - C. Through faith, God is the _____ - _____ - _____
 - D. Through faith, God is my _____.

- III. _____ can be experienced, vv. 5-6 (see also John 16:33; 14:27; Philippians 4:7,9).
 - A. You can _____ in peace (also Psalm 4:8).
 - B. You can be _____ in peace.
 - C. You can face _____ in peace.

Experiencing peace in the midst of affliction doesn’t mean you don’t act with wisdom, as David’s actions behind this Psalm demonstrate. It also doesn’t necessarily mean resolution without pain (on various levels). It means you know you walk with God, and that he is so much for you that he gave everything so that your ultimate outcome will be blessing.

*Salvation belongs to the LORD;
Your blessing be on your people!*

Family Time:

Family conflict is among the most hurtful kinds of affliction. It is a sad and unfortunate part of living together as imperfect people. David’s case, where his son wanted to kill him, was obviously extreme. But what lesser conflicts are you facing as a family? What wise strategies could your family members employ to avoid damage? How does trust in God for salvation from negative outcomes apply to each family member—what must they trust God for, or trust God to do, to experience his peace?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Is your car falling apart? Your roof leaking? Your spouse or child irritated at you? Was all that just this morning as you were getting ready for worship?

--“How many are my foes!” What other problems or afflictions have surfaced while you are also dealing with pandemic challenges? Do you sense these have “snowballed”, and the load is becoming unbearable? Turn to the Lord and talk to him about your troubles!*

--Are there some people currently challenging the value of your faith (“...there is not salvation for him in God.”)? What do you need to do to turn off the negative voices? Where should you be going for encouragement in faith? Are you going there?

**Sometimes it helps to talk to someone else when problems overwhelm. The pastoral staff stands ready to listen—contact us, 503-658-3179.*

2. In what sense is God, or do you depend on God to be...

--Your shield (protection)?

--Your glory (sense of worth)?

--The lifter of your head (encouragement)?

3. David literally had his own son leading thousands of people, the subjects of his kingdom, against him.

--Think about this—what had David done for these people?

How should they have felt and acted toward this king?

--Try to put in words how it is that David, in this situation, could rest well.

--As this Psalm ends, David is asking God to put his blessing on his people (v. 8)—the very ones who at this moment want to kill David! How can trust in God enable one to have this kind of spirit toward enemies? (Compare Matthew 5:43-48).

NEXT WEEK: Pastor Andy, Psalm 5

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