

## Psalm 28-30

We've talked before of the fact, how that for every sigh there's a psalm. There's an expression for every emotion, the full spectrum of human emotion is certainly reflected in the Psalms. I mean there are times of sadness, times of gladness, times of anger and frustration, depression and desperation, we see confidence and doubt, strength and weakness, times where the Psalmist felt like his enemies couldn't touch him and he was moving forward, and times when he felt defeated and just wanted to give up.

I for one am so glad that we see all that because I think that mirror's my life pretty accurately, and I have a suspicion it picture's yours to. Because I think that my life could be fairly well portrayed as an emotional rollercoaster ride, sometimes an emotional train wreck, sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down, sometime's everything is crashing down upon me and falling apart with in me. Sometimes I feel like there's no stopping, other times I just want to give up and give in, throw in the towel and walk away. But I have this tendency to be isolated in my emotions, I feel like everyone else is pretty even keel and I'm all over the spectrum, from one extreme to the other, and it can be day to day, or sometimes minute to minute or hour by hour. But I'm comforted in the fact that so many Psalms portray that same set of emotional struggles. and I've discovered that our feelings can betray us and that's why we're to walk by faith and not by our feelings. Because my feelings are the variable in the equation, God is the constant, and so we lean on Him, and look to Him to be our strength and our ever present help in time of need.

Ps 28 is a Ps of David. It reflects desperation, jubilation, pain and praise. What was the situation surrounding it? We don't know, but it's apparent there some sort of crisis be it military or otherwise and it was working an emotional upheaval in David.

### Vs1-2

Number of things we want to touch on here, ultimately what seems to be before us (at least in David's mind) is the problem of unanswered prayer. He's calling, he's crying, he's lifting his hands toward the sanctuary, his voice in supplication, what he gets in return...is silence.

However one thing we need to be aware of and it's something that you've probably heard before and that is that God's delays are not God's denials, equally true is the fact that our timing and God's timing are 2 different things. Our ways and His ways are radically different and what we see as the pressing need may not be the need at all, we're concerned circumstantially, God may be wanting to work in us personally, do something that will make for a difference eternally.

Be that as it may I think it's important to point out the fact that when crisis confronted him, he knew Whom to call upon. It wasn't one of his counselors, he didn't call upon the Pastor, or the High Priest, he called upon the Lord.

Now I'm not saying that it's wrong to call your pastor, a trusted godly counselor or anything like that. God has those people in our lives for a reason, and the bible says, "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety." Prov 11:14 So don't think that it's wrong to seek out godly input, and godly insight, but what I am saying is that before you go to any man, go the Lord, put your problem in the Lord's hands, seek Him, wait upon Him, give ear to Him. and It could be that He just may minister to your heart in such a way as to eliminate the need to seek out anyone else. As long as your direction corresponds with the counsel of God's word, why worry about what anyone else thinks? Just follow after what the Lord says, and let the chips fall where they may.

But the question here is what do we do when we seek the Lord, we just don't get any response from the Lord. and We should note the growing intensity between Vs 1 and 2. In Vs the word translated "cry" in our NKJV would be more accurately translated "call" in Vs 2 we see it rightly translated as "cry". and So he's calling out to the Lord in Vs 1, in Vs 2 he's crying out to the Lord, lifting the voice of his supplication, lifting his hands toward God's holy sanctuary. But in return all he seems to get is silence. and David is in essence saying, "God this is killing me, I can't take this silent treatment, I'm calling out to You, I'm crying out to You, I'm lifting my hands toward Your holy sanctuary."

By the way, what's the idea behind lifting our hands anyway? There are a # of things it can illustrate or demonstrate. #1 It can obviously be an expression of praise, and jubilation, how many times you may see at a sporting event or something. and Your team scores and it's almost more difficult to resist it than it is to flow with it but hands go up all over the stadium, or throughout the stands or whatever. Because people are elated, they're cheering for and praising their team. How much more is the Lord worthy of our praise, how much more should be elated to be in His presence? 2<sup>ndly</sup> it can be a sign of surrender, someone pulls a gun and the hands instantly go up. "Hey no resistance here, I surrender." Even so when we come to the Lord we lift our hands and our heart in surrender, "God You deserve my complete compliance, rid me of resistance, I surrender." and As with David here not only are lifted hands a sign of surrender, or a proclamation of praise, they're also a posture of prayer. Remember Paul said, "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;" 1 Tim 2:8 and That's what we're seeing here in David, these lifted hands aren't so much the sign of surrender, or the proclamation of praise, but rather the posture of prayer that' he's assumed.

But what do we do when we pray, we petition, we seek Him and call upon Him and just aren't hearing from Him. Well, if you don't know what to do, and God isn't really speaking to you from His word, or in your heart in a way that corresponds to His word. The what do you do? You wait, don't do anything. Could be that God's working something out circumstantially, could be that He's wanting to work patience or any # of things in you personally/inwardly. The main thing is that you continue to trust in Him, don't lose heart regarding Him, and though things may be bad circumstantially/presently He's working in you with a view toward eternity.

Things were bad for David here circumstantially; whatever was going on he felt in many ways like he would be swept away with the wicked as though he were a common (or perhaps not so common) criminal. and That's something else I believe we can easily feel like we're the victim of; injustice. But don't forget God allowed His own Son to suffer the worst fate of injustice, and Jesus said there's no student above His Master. If there was injustice done to Him, none of us are above, but again God's working through it ultimately even when we can't see it presently.

#### Vs3-5

You know you just didn't want to be on the "B-list" of David's prayer life. This was a guy who prayed passionately, and fervently both for blessing of the righteous and the bludgeoning and battering of the wicked. Now for you and me, under a different dispensation, as much as we'd like to pray this way (and as for praying God's will be done that's all good and well) but as a general rule we're not to be praying like this. Jesus said, "I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you," Matt 5:44 Of course we read in Rom 12:19, "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."

So though we don't specifically pray for God's destruction upon our enemies (obviously when people come to Christ they're no longer our enemies, their salvation would be a much better alternative as opposed to their destruction) we can take this type of a mindset toward our own fleshly tendencies, or our impure, improper motives inwardly and ask God to deal with them swiftly and decisively. Crucifying the flesh, putting to death our members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry (Col 3:5), putting off lying, filthy language, anger, malice and blasphemy, putting on tender mercies, meekness, kindness, patience and forgiveness. "Lord if it's not of You, please take it out of me."

#### Vs6-7

A painful experience turned to a song of praise, from sobbing to singing, what made the difference? Faith, the transition was made through trust. He says, "My heart trusted in Him and I am helped." He felt forsaken but he continued to trust, disregarded his feelings and maintained his faith in the Lord. Hey, where else are you going to go? Remember when Jesus was ministering to the multitudes and He began to speak of eating His flesh and drinking His blood and the people didn't get it? They thought, "Man that's gross," not realizing that Jesus was speaking spiritually as opposed to physically, it was too tough for them to take in and so they ceased following after Him. and When just about everyone but the 12 were gone He turned to them and said, "Now's your chance, you can go to if you'd like." and Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:68-69 and Once you've come to believe that, regardless of difficult days, times of tears and all the rest, where else are you going to go?

Maintain your position of trust in Him, continue to keep your faith in Him and the transition will be made in your life as well, He has heard you and He will help you in His time and in His way.

We're also seeing here the fruit of believing and receiving, because what goes before God's hearing and God's helping is what? The position of my heart; he says, "My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped." We spoke Sunday morning of how God is constantly evaluating the position of our heart. Jesus said, "...I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:24 and Of course it's from the heart that we believe, "My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped."

You might also note there in Vs 7 that God is our Power "The Lord is my strength," and He's our Protection, "and my shield."

No doubt we can all relate to a greater or lesser degree to the relief that comes when God hears us and helps us in our time of need, and that spontaneous response and reaction of praise that wells up with in us, and our heart greatly rejoices, and we praise Him with our song.

Vs8-9

Obviously the interpretation lends itself to Israel there; however the application certainly extends to us as the body of Christ. In that He is our strength, our salvation, and our Shepherd, and we are His inheritance (Eph 1:18) Who will bear us up and sustain us forever.

### Psalm 29

As for Ps 29 it seems that there was a wild storm that David watched develop, break loose, move in and move on. He's spoken about clear and starry nights in Ps 19, but here we read of radically stormy days. and Whether it's all good, or your world is rocking in the storm, either way we see that God is worthy to be praised. He's above it all; creation is His and He is in control.

There are times when it seems like creation is out of control, wild and radical storms. But here David rather than seeing things as out of control, noted the power and majesty of God and the fact that God is in control even when it seems like times are out of control in our lives. He's never on vacation, off the throne or not paying attention. He rules His creation in sovereignty.

Vs1-2

The call to worship the Lord in purity, integrity and holiness. David calls for the angels of God (you mighty ones) to ascribe glory and strength unto the Lord, to ascribe to Him the glory due His name, to bow before Him in worship of Him being in awe of His power and might. and There where it says, "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" more literally it speaks of worshipping Him in "holy array."

In the proper garments, it kind of makes me think of the garments of the priesthood and how the high priest had special garments that he had to wear if he was going to approach the Lord, sacrifice to the Lord as he worshipped there before the Lord. and The idea is that we can't just approach God in any ol' way we feel the need. If we don't have the proper attire, if we're not covered in the proper garment our worship is rejected, we can't worship Him in our own covering, in our own array, or garments.

Remember the parable of the wedding feast? The king inviting all kinds of guests, but the people were making excuses, getting hostile toward the servants issuing the invitation even going so far as to persecute and kill them. and When the king heard about it he was furious, told his army to go and destroy those murderers and burn down their cities. Then he sent other servants into the byways and highways to invite as many people as they could find (now those people are represented by us, we're the ones who really aren't worthy to be there, but because of His mercy we've been invited) and we read in Matt's gospel, "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" Matt 22:11-13 We can't celebrate, and feast before our King if we're not appropriately arrayed. Well then how is it that we're to be "fashioned" if we're to be accepted before the Lord, worshipping in the beauty of holiness? 3 Piece suit, and our best Sunday dress? No, the bible says that man looks to the outward appearance, but God searches the heart. What did Paul say to the Galatians? "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal 3:27 and To the Eph we read, "put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." Eph 4:22-24 We come before God robed in the righteousness of Christ, and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Vs3-9

Now there are no doubt a lot of people who could get a lot out of this. But to me there's one primary thread woven throughout this passage as we read over and over and over again, 7x's "The voice of the Lord," then an awesome and devastating effect. and The thing that comes to my mind as I survey this section is that there is power in the word of God, His word is over the waters, (Vs 4) the voice of the Lord is powerful. Of course you remember when Jesus was with His disciples crossing over the Sea of Galilee and this radical storm broke out so that they were all freaking out, thought they were going to die, and there was Jesus asleep in the boat. and So they woke Him up, "Don't You care that we're going to die here?" and We read, "Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?' And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, 'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!'" Mark 4:39-41

“The voice of the Lord is over the waters, over the winds.” God spoke the worlds into existence, and the bottom line is that God rules sovereignly over His creation. We read in Heb 4:12-13, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” and Those Vs might not be exactly what this passage before us is referencing, but the application remains clear in both passages and that is that there is power in the word of God.

Vs10

As long as we’re talking about the sovereignty of God over His creation David brings up the flood, it was God Who broke up the earth’s surface, Who opened the fountains of the deep, who caused the waters to recede and fall into their proper parameters. It’s a parallel point; God is in sovereign control of His creation even when things appear to be out of control. and We’re thankful for that because sometimes storms are breaking loose, seem chaotic and out of control in our lives, but God is still on the throne and He’s still in control.

Vs11

There is power in His word, He sits in sovereign control of His creation, He empowers His people and fills them with His peace. and That’s the peace He desires to impart to us, the fact that He’s all powerful, and He wants to empower you, the sovereign God of all the universe wants to add strength to your life, He’s in complete control, now be at peace.

### Psalm 30

Now as you see there we read that this is a Ps of David, a song at the dedication of the house of David. and It’s a little ambiguous what exactly this is talking about. Whether it was his personal palace, or perhaps the site that would house the temple there around the threshing floor of Ornan. That’s what I lean toward simply because it seems the context fits it better, but that could be wrong.

Whatever the situation was David was in trouble personally because he’d relied on his own prosperity and he was seeking for God’s forgiveness. Now you remember that when David was feeling pretty powerful, and wanting to know how strong he was he had his kingdom numbered. and That angered the Lord and the Lord struck Israel with a plague and 70,000 people died, and of course David confessed his sin and repented. But it seems to me that, that’s possibly the context surrounding this Ps.

Vs1-5

Once again we see the dark times in the life of David. Meaning times when he was an emotional wreck, you just have to love the honesty of God’s word. These were real people with real problems but they loved the Lord and wanted to be right with the Lord. They were like you are and I am.

We've spoken recently on Sunday mornings there in Hebrews about the chastening hand of the Lord. and How that no chastening seems pleasant for the moment, but rather painful, but afterward it yields fruit that's peaceable to those who are trained by it. That's what David is saying here in Vs 5. "His anger is but for a moment (comparatively), but His favor is for life." It's a light affliction working an eternal weight of glory, it's weeping that may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. The bible says, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness." Lam 3:22-23 God's chastening is temporal, but the result it reaps will be eternal. "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,' Says the Lord, your Redeemer." Isa 54:7-8

### Vs6

Or in the NT vernacular, "...let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor 10:12 This is what we call pride, overconfidence, how easy it is to trust in riches, personal prosperity, we're to trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding.

### Vs7-10

David is discovering what his son Solomon would later write, "Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death." Prov 11:4 and Again, "He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like foliage." Prov 11:28 David was overconfident, but now that God has removed His hand of favor we find him what? Overwhelmed. Be it poetically, or in reality it seems he thought that whatever was happening (be it the plague or whatever) he thought his days might be #'d and so he's crying out to God that he's of no earthly value to Him if he's no longer on the earth. and What's happening is that his focus is turning away from his earthly position to his heavenly priority. His focus is back on the Lord, and God has this way of bringing us low, refocusing us as to what's really important. Often times it's through adversity or perhaps even being sick physically.

### Vs11

Sort of a picture of a prodigal here coming back home. The signet ring placed on his hand, furnished with a new robe, new sandals, restored to his proper place. When we're ready to repent, God's ready to both forgive and restore.

### Vs12

Form overconfident, to overwhelmed, to overjoyed! "To the end that my glory (or more literally my soul) may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever."

### Prayer Points:

God we're so thankful that Your mercies are new every morning, and that though Your chastening may endure for a moment (comparatively) Your favor lasts a lifetime.

Thanks for keeping us mindful of the eternal when we begin to place our confidence in the things of this world. and We thank You God for the reminder that You're still in control regardless of how the storms of life may be spinning our lives out of control. and Though Your voice thunders in power, You so often move us through the still small voice, whispering in our hearts. God what can we say? Bless now Your people with Your peace.