

Do not be far from Me! (Slide 1)
Psalm 22

Reading: Matthew 26:36-46

Psalm 22:19-21ab (NKJV) (Slide 2)

¹⁹ But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me;

O My Strength, hasten to help Me!

²⁰ Deliver Me from the sword,

My precious life from the power of the dog.

²¹ Save Me from the lion's mouth

And from the horns of the wild oxen!

Do not be far from Me! I really believe that even though our experiences are nothing like what David experienced and certainly, nothing remotely close to that of Jesus, we need God to be near.

Do not be far from Me! Lord, please show me mercy. *I am weak but thou art strong.*

To me, God's deliverance equals God's mercy. In times of hardship God shows His people mercy.

To me, David's prayer is for mercy.

(Slide 3) **Psalm 3:7** (*Thought to be written as he flees Absalom*)

Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God!

Psalm 35:1

***Plead my cause, O LORD, with those who strive with me;
Fight against those who fight against me.***

Psalm 59:1-2 (Slide 4)

***¹ Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
Defend me from those who rise up against me.
² Deliver me from the workers of iniquity,
And save me from bloodthirsty men.***

I won't go into great detail here, but **Psalm 69** is also quite compelling as is **Psalm 22**. I believe that David is writing concerning his deliverance and hope in **Psalm 69**. But I also believe that some statements point directly toward Jesus. Mixed in are prophetic words that point to deliverance by our Lord Jesus Christ.

God, through His Son Jesus has shown great Mercy!!

Several important messages are conveyed in **Psalm 69** by David. Here are the highlights which differentiate between writing concerning himself and when he's writing concerning the coming Christ in **Psalm 22**.

1st, once again he writes calling on the Lord for protection and deliverance from his enemies.

Psalm 69:4 (Slide 5)

***Those who hate me without a cause
Are more than the hairs of my head;
They are mighty who would destroy me,
Being my enemies wrongfully;
Though I have stolen nothing,
I still must restore it.***

Interestingly enough, this message could also fit Jesus who was hated by many and suffered because of no fault of His own. He paid our debt.

2nd, David writes admitting his shortcomings. Just as we might also do in a general sense. Admitting to and acknowledging failures in human conduct or weakness.

This is to me an admission important for times when we acknowledge the need for forgiveness of sin.

Psalm 69:5 (Slide 6)

O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.

Note: David acknowledges for all of us that man's sins are never hidden from God.

David never complained regarding facing consequences for his shortcomings. However, here he is falsely accused of fraud and though in the right, he allows himself to be defrauded by giving to his accusers what they falsely claim he stole.

David is the epitome of one who, despite his troubles, does not wish his name to shame anyone else. Rather than allow that to happen he appeases his accusers so as not to bring trouble to those who support him.

This is the concept Apostle Paul was trying to teach the brethren at Corinth:

1 Corinthians 6:7 (Slide 7)

Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?

Any time there is infighting within an organization, a political party or unfortunately in the Lord's church, tremendous damage is done. I've witnessed it in the church.

It ravages solidarity and disrupts the message of mercy because the lack of unity causes many to turn away.

I personally believe we have to evaluate each situation carefully. I think it would be unwise to not bring attention to someone who repeatedly commits fraud taking advantage of others or us or is a compulsive liar.

I believe that much of David's life was spent in prayer. Much of it centered around protection from his enemies. David knew when in trouble where he needed to turn.

He makes statements in this chapter that refer to how God helps and hears the prayers of the poor and destroys the oppressor.

He makes statements about having no where to turn but to God. Not to friends for they have forsaken me. I think this is the concept behind the lyrics in this song:

*Where could I go but to the Lord
Where could I go but to the Lord
Where could I go oh where could I go
Seeking the refuge for my soul
Needing a friend to save me in the end
Where could I go but to the Lord*

He knows that God is truth and His deliverance is Real/ Authentic.

Psalm 69:13 (Slide 8)

***But as for me, my prayer is to You,
O LORD, in the acceptable time;
O God, in the multitude of Your mercy,
Hear me in the truth of Your salvation.***

David writes, proclaiming God's Mercy, prophesying the coming Christ.

Psalm 69:19-21 (Slide 9)

***¹⁹ You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor;
My adversaries are all before You.***

***²⁰ Reproach has broken my heart,
And I am full of heaviness;***

(Slide 10) ***I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none.***

***²¹ They also gave me gall for my food,
And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.***

What is real, what is truth? David lamented over his failure, but repented. Faith took the place of uncertainty. That is *"truth!"*

I found the way that **Psalm 22** was translated as particularly interesting. Especially the phrase **My precious life** in the second sentence in verse **20**.

I read to you in the beginning of this lesson from the *NKJV* and I want to follow with the *KJV* and the *NASB 1995* versions and then comment.

Psalm 22:19-21 KJV (Slide 11)

¹⁹ But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling (My precious life NKJV) from the power of the dog. ²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

Psalm 22:19-21ab NASB 1995 (Slide 12)

¹⁹ But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance.

²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, My only life (my darling: KJV - My precious life: NKJV) from the power of the dog.

²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth;

The KJV version is in the third person narrative, stating **my darling**. I want to be absolutely direct when I say that this to me shows the depth of what is real. It simply means

that the writer is watching the story unfold from a distance. Seeing it all develop before his very eyes and controlling the story telling with fact and proof. In this case, his intimate relationship with God, his deliverer.

Therein lies the truth that we hope for. Where the source of truth, who is Jesus, is our only hope.

Jesus expresses the true human condition when he comes to grips with the fact that His purpose for coming to earth is nearing its torturous and deadly end. All written after the fact as it unfolded.

“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

Many search for truth only to find make-believe. The ultimate in AI plays before our very eyes and so many grasp and hang on to it as if it is real.

Have you heard of the Novel: (Slide 13) *“The War of the Worlds”*

It was written by *H.G. Wells* in 1898 as a sci-fi novel.

In 1938 at the age of 23, *Orson Welles* along with writer *Howard Koch*, using the premise of a Martian invasion from the novel, created a radio broadcast for CBS Radio’s *“Mercury Theatre on the Air.”*

Interestingly, it aired on Halloween night.

The broadcast featured legitimately sounding, but fake, news bulletins that were patterned after authentic emergency national broadcasts.

The broadcast created widespread panic nationwide!!

Why? Because people really believed it to be true. What they didn't know was that prior to the broadcast, a disclaimer was presented to inform the public that the following broadcast was for entertainment and is fictional.

Most people missed the disclaimer and ran with falsehood.

The lack of intelligent information in its entirety has caused many to fall for fiction in the religious world!!!

David wrote about what and who was real!!

How many times have we read the following two verses and perhaps wondered how we can validate what they are actually saying?

John 1:1 (Slide 14)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John the Baptist recognized this fact!!

The obvious concept behind these two verses is that ***“In the beginning”*** before time and when time as we know it began, that is, creation, Jesus was, is and has always been in existence. Jesus is real!

The Word was with God clearly means that Jesus was always with God who has no *beginning nor end*. He is eternal. Jesus is real!

The word became flesh and dwelt among us is clearly pointing to Jesus coming to earth in a miraculous way. Jesus is real!

We beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. When did they behold His glory?

Even in His *humanity*, Jesus was glorified. ***Peter, James*** and ***John*** witnessed His ***transfiguration***. ***Transfiguration*** comes from a Greek term wherein we get metamorphosis.

Perhaps the most identifiable way to describe metamorphosis is a caterpillar changing to a butterfly. It

relates well to not only a change in appearance but a change in form.

Matthew 17:2 (Slide 15)

He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Jesus is eternal and Jesus is real!

When Jesus uses the word ***truth*** in this statement, ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life,”*** He is literally saying: ***“I am real.”*** *This isn’t just a reality. It is “the” reality.*

Invitation

But what does it all mean if we aren’t in His reality? The truth, the reality will be much different if we are not in Christ.

Jesus, in His own words, has made that absolutely clear.

Mark 16:16 (Slide 16)

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

You’ve heard it said: *“Why leave things to chance?”*

Without Jesus one has no chance. Become a child of God today by being immersed in water for the remission of your sins.

If you are a child of God but need the prayers of your brethren for any reason, please let us know.

Make your wish known how we may serve you.....

Reading

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶ Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." ³⁷ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. ³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴² Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless

I drink it, Your will be done.”⁴³ And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

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