

## TRAVELING THROUGH TROUBLESOME TIMES (Psalm 55)

### I. David's discouragement (vs. 1-4, 9-15).

- A. Notice that David is discouraged because of an enemy and feels that it will be soon that he dies.
- B. His discouragement is seen in his feeling deserted (vs. 1-2).
  - 1. His trusted advisor had left and his son had rebelled.
  - 2. There are times in life when we feel the same.
    - a. It may be a spouse has left us.
    - b. It may be a Christian friend has left us.
  - 3. We must remember that the Lord is always with us (Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20).
- C. It is seen in his feeling deceived (vs. 3 and 9-15, 20-21).
  - 1. He was turned out of the kingdom because of treachery.
  - 2. It seems that Ahithophel may have felt he had a reason to do so.
  - 3. I had never noticed this, but Ahithophel was very possibly the grandfather of Bathsheba (2 Samuel 23:34).
  - 4. He was probably angry with David for what he had done with Bathsheba, which did not give him the right to turn against David.
  - 5. Being lied to is one of the most hurtful things.
    - a. You trust someone and they break that trust.
    - b. This is something with which it is difficult to deal.
- D. It is seen in his feeling of dismay (vs. 4).
  - 1. There are times when past problems try and overwhelm us.
  - 2. It was because of the sin of David with Bathsheba that this took place (2 Samuel 11:11).
  - 3. At times guilty feelings of past sins can bring us down.
  - 4. We need to remember that if we have asked forgiveness that those sins are gone and forgotten (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
- E. It is seen in his feeling of defeat (vs. 5).
  - 1. No doubt, as David was fleeing his home and city, there were times he felt as if he would not come back.
  - 2. There are times when sin so overwhelms us that we can feel as if we can't come back or that we can't win against Satan.
  - 3. Christians are promised the victory if they remain faithful (1 Corinthians 15:57; Revelation 2:10).

### II. David's desire (vs. 6-8).

- A. David wanted to flee.
- B. David felt as if he could just run away from everything, it would all turn out to be just fine.
- C. If he could have wings he could fly away from the storm.
  - 1. Have you ever felt like that?
  - 2. I have.
  - 3. If you could just get in the car and keep driving and start over somewhere everything would be okay.

- D. The fact is we can't run from problems.
  - 1. I know of preachers that have left congregations because of perceived problems only to go to another congregation with more or different problems.
  - 2. I know of people who have fled marriages they felt could not be corrected only to get into more problems.
- E. The only thing we can do and the best thing we can do is face the problems with the Lord's help.
  - 1. He has asked for our burdens (Matthew 11:28-30).
  - 2. He has asked for our cares (1 Peter 5:7).
  - 3. He has promised His presence and we need to take Him at His word.

### III. **David's deliverance (vs. 16-23).**

- A. As you have probably noticed reading through the Psalms, many of them start out down and then end on a positive note and this one is no different.
- B. Notice the words of verse 16.
- C. David knew he would be delivered by calling of God through prayer (vs. 16-17).
  - 1. We need to be people of prayer, not only in difficult times, but in all times (Isaiah 65:24).
  - 2. Prayer works (James 5:16).
- D. He would be delivered by communing with the right company (vs. 18).
  - 1. We need to surround ourselves with people who will help us get to heaven (Hebrews 10:25).
  - 2. Those are the kind of people that can fulfill Romans 12:15.
- E. He would be delivered by casting away burdens (vs. 22a).
  - 1. The pain he had he gave to the Lord.
  - 2. Notice how he responded when Shimei was cursing him (2 Samuel 16:12).
  - 3. We must rely on God to help us through those difficult times (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- F. He would be delivered by continuing with God (vs. 22b).
  - 1. Going away from God only adds to our sorrows.
  - 2. Living for Him despite difficulties brings joy and reward.
  - 3. Polycarp (A.D. 70-155) was a bishop of Smyrna and a godly man. He had known the apostle John personally. When he was urged by the Roman proconsul to renounce Christ, Polycarp said: "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury. How then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?"

Not original with me but don't know the originator's name.