

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.