THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 28TH–29TH // PSALMS GREATEST HITS

DARK TIMES (PSALM 22:1–5)

DID DAVID KNOW HOW ACCURATE HE WAS?

Psalm 22 is about King David suffering through multiple attacks from unprovoked enemies that God hadn't delivered him from yet. Here, the king seems helpless and alone.

- This psalm is also the most blatant Old Testament prophecy of the crucifixion of King Jesus (Luke 23).

WE CAN RELATE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT

When we read of David's confusion and pain, we can probably think of a time in our lives when we felt like life was falling apart and God was absent. This is an experience most people will go through.

- **Jesus isn't offended by honest and humble questions** (Habbakuk 1:2; Hebrews 4:15–16).

JESUS' SUFFERING WAS UNIQUE TO OURS

Jesus came for the purpose of suffering and dying for the sins of humanity. Even in His perfection and innocence, He suffered.

- The reason the Father turned His face from the Son was because **Jesus became the sin of humanity and paid our debt** (Isaiah 53; 2 Corinthians 5).

SILENCE IS NOT ALWAYS ABSENCE

V. 2 says, "You do not answer," but v. 3 says, "You are holy" and "enthroned." David knows **the silence of God doesn't mean He has abdicated His position as King and Father.**

- God's silence may be teaching us that our **faith is weak,** that **we need patience,** or that we need to **learn to listen more intently.**

LEANING ON HIS REPUTATION

To make it through dark times, David recalls God's faithfulness to "rescue" and "set free" those who have "**trusted**" and "**cried to [Him].**"

- **When we walk in a relationship with Jesus, He helps us.** When tough times arise, we must **remember the goodness and faithfulness of our loving Savior.**

SUFFERING (PSALM 22:6–18)

"BUT I AM A WORM…"

Though David is speaking of his experience, these verses clearly parallel the cross. Jesus was treated inhumanely: mocked, beaten, spat upon, and flogged, as God was blasphemed.

- **Christ's suffering makes Him relatable. When we experience pain, it's comforting to know our Savior has as well.**

KNOWING THE NATURE OF THE FATHER

In vs. 9–10, David reminds himself that God has a purpose for him because God had watched over him from birth.

- **To make it through adversity, we have to remember that our Father's nature is good!** If we truly understand God is good, we will obey and trust Him at all times.

"DON'T BE FAR FROM ME…"

David needs God close because **"distress is near and there's no one to help."** Though it may not be physical attack, we will war against "cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil" and "spiritual forces" (Ephesians 6:12).

- **If we don't invite God to be close (pray, read, obey), we will be overcome by evil.**

ACTING LIKE ANIMALS

David equates his enemies to lions, bulls, dogs, and a "gang of evildoers." **When people reject God and His Word, they act like animals.**

- Look at culture: **sexual deviance, over-consumption, selfishness, lawlessness, crassness, violence,** and **defensiveness.**

BACK TO A SAVIOR WHO CAN RELATE

In vs. 14–18, David describes the pain in his bones, mouth, hands, and feet from his enemies. Again, this clearly parallels Christ.

- **Jesus physically suffered, went through emotional turmoil, and was tempted to give up** (Matthew 26:39; Luke 4). **Knowing this, we can be comforted and trust in Him.**

SALVATION (PSALM 22:19–31)

CALLING ON GOD FOR HELP

To receive help, we must ask (Matthew 7:7). **Instead of running to the things of the world, David cries out to God** to "Rescue [him] from the sword…from the power of these dogs."

- The world is full of quick and empty "fixes." **In times of "distress," we must humble ourselves and call out to God!**

OBEDIENCE YIELDS RESULTS

If we call on God without being obedient to His Word, we cannot expect results (James 5:16). We must also pray for God's will if we expect our prayers to be answered (John 14).

- **To ask for God's help but to live in opposition to His teachings is paradoxical and will only lead to disappointment.**

A POSITIVE SHIFT (VS. 22–26)

In these verses, David says he will **"proclaim," "praise," "fear," "honor,"** and **"revere"** God because He "listened when he cried to Him for help" and didn't "hide His face."

- **The knowledge of God and His character should change the way we think and act.** Do we live to honor Jesus?

WILL EVERYONE "REMEMBER"? (VS. 27–28)

We know that everyone will not "turn to the Lord." So, what does this mean? It probably means the invitation to "all the nations" to accept Jesus.

- **Salvation is for anyone,** rich or poor, who will **humble themself and "bow down before" (submit and follow) Jesus.**

AND THEY WILL ENJOY THE KINGDOM

Through the sacrifice of Jesus, all people who seek Him will receive not only help in this life but also the promise of Heaven. V. 29 alludes to **the Great Banquet and the equalization of all people under the King.**

- **In eternity, we will all be perfect and perfectly provided for by a loving God.**

"TO A PEOPLE YET TO BE BORN"

David ends with the encouragement that future generations will follow the Savior.

- Vs. 30–31 should be **a wake-up call for parents to raise their children in the ways of the Lord** and for **older people to disciple younger ones. Are we investing in the next generation?**

A GOD WHO KNOWS HOW YOU FEEL

- On earth Jesus worked hard, was unfairly treated, mocked, lied about, tempted, beaten, abandoned, and was viciously killed. **Whatever we experience, He can relate.**
- Jesus also took on our sin, shame, and condemnation to **open the door for anyone to be saved and guided until His return.**

YOU WILL HAVE SUFFERING (JOHN 16:33)

- It isn't a question of if you will have hard times but when. **In those times, what will we turn to for help?**
- Christianity isn't a life of ease but one of victory. **We have victory when we pray, ask Jesus to be near, read His Word,** and **obey His commands.**

REMEMBERING HIS GOODNESS AND FAITHFULNESS

- We can easily become unappreciative or forgetful of how good God has been.
- When we go through hard times or when God is quiet, **we must remember His faithfulness in the past, His perfect fatherly nature,** and that **He always wants to teach and mature us.**

INSTILLING THIS INTO OTHERS

- We often complain about the world or the generations after us, but what are we doing to change hearts and minds? If it's nothing, do we have the right to complain?
- This starts at home and branches out. Are we displaying and communicating the **hope, truth,** and **love of God to others?**
- At times, life will be hard, and God will seem silent.
- Remember God is good and He understands where you're at.
- Run to Him for help and clarity, instead of the powerless things of this world.
- Live out your faith and lead others into following Christ as well.