

## The Call to Praise Pt. 2

### Psalm 34:1-3, CBC, Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Psalm as a whole—acrostic; one of 7-9 in the psalms (most complete being Ps. 119)—v. 5 covers 2 letters, 6<sup>th</sup> letter vav skipped perhaps, v. 22 adds extra pei (17<sup>th</sup> letter), from A to Z communicate a message – break between vv. 1-10, 11-22 first part either thanksgiving or testimony (Goldingay mentions that not one line directed directly to God, but merely telling what will do and calling others to praise—teaching psalm), second part teaching—rejoice, let me tell you why; Wilcock-- first part celebrates blessings of those who fear Lord, second explains what that fear means—first singing, then the sermon, Kidner—rejoice w me, then learn with me Occasion—references I Sam. 21:10-15, but says Abimelech (my father is king), not Achish, perhaps NOT this occasion b/c different king, others say title like Pharaoh—Spurgeon says perhaps not at time of I Sam. But reflecting on it later—Goldingay follows this line saying commemorating event and tying together w Abraham/Isaac's time of dealing w Abimelech in Gen. 20, 26—time of fear, God's deliverance—focus NOT on event, but on God's deliverance

#### I. Personal Resolve to Praise

<sup>1</sup> I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. favor, adore—recount mercies/goodness

#### A. In All Circumstances

what does all include? Easy to say that should praise the Lord; Rom. 1 did not honor Him as God or give thanks—rejoice in Lord always, in everything give thanks—God's will for you I Thess. 5:18 requires preparation/forethought/foundation if word have are to have any weight; Ie. When youth group—easy to say will try to take care of building at youth group, but if don't think ahead, lose ceiling tiles, holes in wall, broken front table or candles; words need a home; praise/blessing needs home—includes words, but must have something behind it; what will preparation for this include so not well-wishing but empty words? takes character to keep focus (not distracted, honest when off and not defensive so can take corrective measures—spend so much time saying misunderstood instead of thinking IF wrong WHEN understood, what would correcting focus look like?)

#### B. From My Mouth

Heb. 13:15, Hosea 14:1-3—this normal in Scripture—what keeps continual praise from being normal from our mouths? All heart issues—looking at ourselves rather than at God—(we are all good lawyers for ourselves—what happens if look from HIS perspective?) psalmist focuses on goodness of God rather than on his thoughts, actions, feelings (danger of too many autobiographies—YOU are center of your own story and its telling); we are talking about an action that is . . .

#### C. Rooted in Heart's Posture

<sup>2</sup> My soul will make its boast in the LORD; Boasting generally condemned—why? b/c of center; focus not on noise, but on false center—Jer. 9:23-24 II Cor. 10:12-18 what do we learn about boasting in self vs. boasting in the Lord? We are talking about soul—seat of affections; how do you see yourself; what do you want/need to live—Psalm 73 revealed affections that were temporal, not eternal—that were material, not personal—drove him to bitterness/act like animal because not getting what deserved/fair/right—then I perceived their end; not good—AND would be judged by God; opposite—can have God now, let Him be God, then have His presence, promises, goodness now AND then and eternal reward; watch Prosperity OR Hardship Pr. 30:7-9 (don't feel bad for wanting enough or for wanting hardship over, but watch what it reveals about you), Deut. 8:12, 31:19-20, Neh. 9:24-26, Hosea 13:1-6; humility that is free to focus on Lord and what done, NOT on self and situation (own efforts/strength or lack of them, own holiness); Kidner, “pure joy in another's triumph, however poor one's own showing” pp. 156-157 Talking about a personal experience of seeing praiseworthy deeds of God-- comes from posture we described of one centered on God (soul makes boast in Lord)—this is a heart that is grateful, and therefore not ashamed to speak of God's goodness; Spurgeon—boasting is meant and felt before it is expressed p. 123

**Deuteronomy 8:11-14** “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; <sup>12</sup> otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, <sup>13</sup> and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, <sup>14</sup> then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

**Deuteronomy 31:19-20** “Now therefore, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the sons of Israel; put it on their lips, so that this song may be a witness for Me against the sons of Israel. <sup>20</sup> “For when I bring them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and are satisfied and become prosperous, then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and spurn Me and break My covenant.

**Nehemiah 9:24-26** “So their sons entered and possessed the land. And You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, And You gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, To do with them as they desired. <sup>25</sup> “They captured fortified cities and a fertile land. They took possession of houses full of every good thing, Hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves, Fruit trees in abundance. So they ate, were filled and grew fat, And reveled in Your great goodness. <sup>26</sup> “But they became disobedient and rebelled against You, And cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets who had admonished them So that they might return to You, And they committed great blasphemies.

**Proverbs 30:7-9** Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: <sup>8</sup> Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, <sup>9</sup> That I not be full and deny You and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.

**Hosea 13:1-6** When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling. He exalted himself in Israel, But through Baal he did wrong and died. <sup>2</sup> And now they sin more and more, And make for themselves molten images, Idols skillfully made from their silver, All of them the work of craftsmen. They say of them, “Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!” <sup>3</sup> Therefore they will be like the morning cloud And like dew which soon disappears, Like chaff which is blown away from the threshing floor And like smoke from a chimney. <sup>4</sup> Yet I have been the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to

know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me. <sup>5</sup> I cared for you in the wilderness, In the land of drought. <sup>6</sup> As *they had* their pasture, they became satisfied, And being satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore they forgot Me.

**Hosea 14:1–3** Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity. <sup>2</sup> Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity And receive *us* graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips. <sup>3</sup> “Assyria will not save us, We will not ride on horses; Nor will we say again, ‘Our god,’ To the work of our hands; For in You the orphan finds mercy.”

**Acts 12:11–16** When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” <sup>12</sup> And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. <sup>13</sup> When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. <sup>14</sup> When she recognized Peter’s voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. <sup>15</sup> They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, “It is his angel.” <sup>16</sup> But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed.

**Hebrews 13:15** Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.