

The Call to Praise Pt. 4

Psalm 34:1-7, CBC, Wednesday, October 11, 2023 Praise to the Lord

Psalm written around an occasion (most likely I Sam. 21:10-15) or a number of similar occasions, but **focus NOT on event, but on God's deliverance** **I. Personal Resolve to Praise** **A. In All Circumstances** this praise is heard **B. From My Mouth** ¹ **I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth;** normal in Scripture **Heb. 13:15**; talking about praise . . . **C. Rooted in Heart's Posture** ² **My soul will make its boast in the LORD;** **what does it mean to boast in the Lord? what do we learn about boasting in self vs. boasting in the Lord from II Cor. 10?** **Spurgeon don't blush at speaking of self when desiring God to get glory II Cor. 11:30-33** Here, SOUL makes boast, seat of affections; **where are your affections? what do you want/need to live/to be content**—watch dangers of Prosperity OR Hardship **Deut. 8:11-14**; Psalm 73:1-9 revealed affections temporal, not eternal, material, not personal—drove him to bitterness/act like animal because not getting what deserved/fair/right—then I perceived their end; not good—would be judged by God; opposite—**can have fellowship w God now, must let Him be God, then have His presence, promises, goodness now AND eternally**; **psalmist shows humility 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} comes from posture of one centered on God (**soul makes boast in Lord**) This kind of public display of gratitude and greatness has result at least among one group of people **II. Public Effect of Personal Praise** **A. It Encourages the Humble** **The humble will hear it and rejoice.** Humble includes afflicted, weak, but also meek, so term here focuses more on posture of heart, know where they fit b/r God—**NOT independent, but dependent**—**because know can't deliver themselves, can see mercies from God/others and rejoice**—**can rejoice when other's delivered; not scoffers, proud, not looking for other gods/solutions, but look to God, wait for His guidance**—from this position, free to be lifted up (**rejoice**) **B. It Draws a Line Between the Praisers and those who won't.** ³ **O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.** God (Yahweh)—He alone is God! He is good! **Exalt**—lift up, He IS high, above—let's do this together! Spurgeon, can't add anything to God's glory, but his name grows in manifested glory as he is made known to his creatures—in THIS way, magnified; **do you find growing desire to rehearse God's goodness w others?** NOT talking about "doing the right thing" or "posturing for approval," talking about heart's disposition that results in praise; **Why is this trajectory (heart that looks for God's words/works more than good feeling, sees His works, and then responds from a grateful heart in public praise and delights in others praising the Lord with them) such a dividing line?** **Ps. 50:14-23** together, psalmist and humble see the goodness of God when others just see other deliverance, or drown in own demands; **If not careful, might say God is great, but known more by what you need and your problems, hurts, fears**—shows looking somewhere other than Him—don't look at self (v. 5) at either strength OR inadequacies, look to Him at His adequacies and rejoice! Our God is great and is for us! **THEREFORE**—even though messy situation, God gets praise for deliverance from David; Tim—The Unseen Hand—don't lose God's power/love as deliverer as try to figure out everywhere David right or not; Van Gemeren "The purpose of praise is not to make God's people feel good but to acknowledge in a communal way the greatness of our God." p. 282 **If this is true, what corrective would this have on our worship services together?** Songs, how we listen, testimony time, etc.; Found the quote I heard from John Stott on sermon on propitiation; from H Richard Niebuhr—raised in liberalism, but moved toward right direction as read Jonathan Edwards/others—critiqued the social gospel of his day in *The Kingdom of God in America* (1937), describing its message as, "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross." **Very challenged by podcast revisiting J Gresham Machan's Christianity and Liberalism by Kevin DeYoung calling us to think about path to liberalism** that focuses more on relevance and good deeds than on the character and person of God who is above us—over us, outside cultural norms; **MUST work to worship**—NOT always have easy time individually or together when properly looking at Greatness of God; **meditate on psalmist's/humble's posture of heart/soul, and ask God to work so you will boast in the Lord!**

II. Testimony Backing the Praise vv. 4-7

⁴ I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears. ⁵ They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed. ⁶ This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him And saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

A. Problem

Time of **troubles**. Distress—oppressive state of physical, mental, social, or economic adversity; if this refers to I Sam. 21, though defeated Goliath when all rest of Israel afraid, now other Philistine kings, people would remind Achish of David's actions against Philistines (ie. Elijah b/r Jezebel—one day makes all the difference); **psalmist speaks not merely of situations that bring distress, but all my fears** (word speaks of dread) both terrible experiences AND things which dread in future (unknown) **what accompanies fears?** Small world, fills thoughts (nightmares OR just scenes of possible that terrorize, strategies endlessly), perhaps sleep affected, other joys, see little from another perspective except how benefit you (THEY hurt me, THEY safe—not free to care for them); not all unwarranted—remember, Sin—not the way it's supposed to be; **Problem: I have troubles/need of deliverance, I'm in danger, need rescue, I'm not safe or secure, need freedom from fears**; we must not just say don't worry, must have MORE that keeps fears alone from filling screen and gives direction for next steps

B. Disposition and Action in midst of the problem

Sought the Lord, THEY looked to Him, This poor man cried, those who fear Him; Describe disposition and actions of this one

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; ¹² otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived *in them*, ¹³ and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, ¹⁴ 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.

Joshua 5:13–15 Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” ¹⁴ He said, “No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” ¹⁵ The captain of the LORD’S host said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

2 Kings 6:15–17 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶ So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” And the LORD opened the servant’s eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Psalms 91:11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways.

2 Corinthians 11:30–33 If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, ³³ and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

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.