

The Call to Praise Pt. 5

Psalm 34:1-7, CBC, Wednesday, October 18, 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; SOUL 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, **psalmist speaks of his situation of need and deliverance**—**Spurgeon** don't blush at speaking of self when desiring God to get glory **psalmist's posture humbly focused on Lord, NOT on self and efforts/strength/holiness or lack of them** II. **Public Effect of Personal Praise** A. **It Encourages the Humble** **The humble will hear it and rejoice.** humble 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 wait for God & see mercies from God/others and 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. **Exalt**—lift up, He IS high, above; Yahweh alone is God! good!—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** exposes heart, shows where it focuses—already looking to God as great/good, therefore see goodness of God or focused on what want/need which directs away from God—**this is way of life/disposition, not just act**; **points to some of the issues of distraction and lack of reverence and focus on my needs/wants in public worship**—should focus on that which turns my gaze to God as He is described and on what He values, NOT my tastes, preferences, or feelings being in the groove; **DON'T** want to end up w social gospel's God; Social gospel's message is that "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross." H Richard Niebuhr III. **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** humble—acknowledged position, related word to v. 2, but perhaps more focused on afflicted/need, weak; poor wretch who cries to Lord—**all reason says mess**, (ie. Feigning madness in front of the king, Tim preached on it, commentators point out the mess of David's solutions ethically, spiritually) **yet focus NOT on David's schemes/ plans, but on greatness of need that cries to Lord in face of his fears**; one noted, **psalmist faces fear with fear**; **Encamps around those who fear Him**—(v. 7, 9 reverential fear, NOT terror fear of v. 4)—trust that He over all, this NOT beyond His power—look to Him, cry to Him;

C. God's work

He answered, (we have mysterious problem w our church phone—buzz, but NO tone); as never before, people question whether God hears—why pray? **Delivered, rescues** acted not merely toward troubles, but addressed fears! brought hope and life **looked to Him, were radiant, angel of the Lord encamps** stands guard around and watches over His own (may be indirect reference to Lord OR host of angels God has charged w protection of his own ie. 2x to Hagar angel of Lord, angel of God Gen. 16:7ff, 21:17, captain of Jehovah's host **Josh. 5:13-15**, Gen. 32:2 Spurgeon "On every side the watch is kept by warriors of sleepless eyes, and the Captain of the host is one whose prowess none can resist." P. 124; **Ps. 121 He who keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps**; Goldingay points out two sides of this protection, both w military terms—defense of people who belong to God and attacking their attackers **Psalm 35:5-6**; camping around people implies he is leader of substantial host **II Ki. 6:15-17**; trust Him & His hosts to protect "lest we dash foot against a stone" **Ps. 91:11** Lord Jesus trusted and quoted this when tempted by devil, **Matt. 4:5-6**—don't look elsewhere!)

D. Other's Testimony Aligns with Mine v. 5

seems to include more than just psalmist—poor man v. 4 or psalmist, most likely general v. 5, psalmist v. 6, general v. 7 **5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed.** **Goldingay** v. 5 MT makes statement or promise while ancient versions suggest command or encouragement (Look to him and shine, your faces are not to be ashamed); both versions apply to other worshippers the message of the testimony—there is change in appearance of those who look to Lord; object of their look affects them; **whenever faithful/humble turned to Lord, faces lightened**; verb commonly means to flow, (ie. Stream,

light words similar roots—ideas come together here) **Is. 60:1-5** mother's face at sight of children long thought lost; shame opposite (bows down, hide, shuddered at, monstrous—reading about school shooting in Nashville at end of March—shooter girl who “identified” as boy—daughter of family in church funeral held—mother led the meals ministry at church—said all correspondence to them should flow through leaders as they would have to lay low for some time); humble looked to God; old hymn, “Look and Live” (reference to bronze serpent in face of their sin/punishment, Jesus refers to it in John—as Moses lifted up serpent, Son of Man; **II Cor. 3:18** Christian's growing likeness to Lord; **never be ashamed**, something greater than fear, terror, gloom--spirits uplifted when looked, NOT just change of circumstances, but eternal perspective **Spurgeon, “time and eternity will both justify his reliance”** p. 124; psalmist DID this, leading to vows and challenges of vv. 1-3 **What keeps us from finding hope and encouragement from this testimony?**

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.

Psalm 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.

Psalm 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, And He will hear my voice.

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

Isaiah 38:14 “Like a swallow, *like a crane*, so I twitter; I moan like a dove; My eyes look wistfully to the heights; O Lord, I am oppressed, be my security.

Isaiah 60:1-5 “Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² “For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. ³ “Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ “Lift up your eyes round about and see; They all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, And your daughters will be carried in the arms. ⁵ “Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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.