

The Call to Praise Pt. 3

Psalm 34:1-7, CBC, Wednesday, October 4, 2023 Praise to the Lord

Psalm written around an occasion or a number of similar occasions, (most likely I Sam. 21:10-15), but **focus NOT on event, but on God's deliverance** I. **Personal Resolve to Praise** I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. A. **All Circumstances** In order to actually DO this, must have foundation for praise; —includes words, but must have something behind it; **what will preparation for this include so not well-wishing but empty words?** See as praiseworthy (Emblems of the Infinite King—fruit symbolized knowledge w/o God, pickpocketing God) takes character to keep focus (not distracted, honest when NOT able to praise instead of defensive so can take corrective measures—IF I'm not praising, what would be path? Work on heading this direction; His praise is heard 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?** At root, looking at ourselves rather than at God, even when we look at Him—**psalmist focuses on goodness of God rather than on his own thoughts, actions, feelings;** we are talking about an action that is . . . C. **Rooted in Heart's Posture** My soul will make its boast in the LORD; Boasting generally condemned—why? b/c of false center; YOU/THEY not all you make it out to be; Jer. 9:23-24 II Cor. 10:12-18 **what do we learn about boasting in self vs. boasting in the Lord?** SOUL makes boast, seat of affections; **how do you see yourself; what do you want/need to live**—Psalm 73:1-9 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 fellowship w God now, must let Him be God, then have His presence, promises, goodness now AND then and eternal reward;** watch dangers of 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. 8:11-14, 31:19-20, Neh. 9:24-26, Hosea 13:1-6; **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) public testimony of seeing praiseworthy deeds of God; 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**)—grateful heart, therefore not ashamed to speak of God's goodness; **Spurgeon**—boasting is meant and felt before it is expressed p. 123 Worship is not just going along w song or showing up at church; here, true worship b/c comes from within/soul, THIS spreads!

II. Public Effect of Personal Praise

The humble will hear it and rejoice. ³ O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. Wilcock--3 smaller sections in each part; counted as 3 couplets, but rhythm is two triplets—I will extol, praise, boast, this is what I will do, now calling others to join, let us rejoice, glorify, exalt (Goldingay paraphrase--testimony, not directed to God, but to others about the Lord) This kind of public display of gratitude and greatness has result at least among one group of people

A. It Encourages the Humble

Word can refer to Poor afflicted, needy—but also meek Moses Num. 12:3 (referred to as power under control)—**so NOT focused on weak but on posture of heart,** know where they fit b/r God—**NOT independent, but dependent**—**because know they can't deliver themselves, can see mercies from God/others and rejoice—can rejoice when other's delivered; can see right position AND deliverer—they wait for God, look to Him, guided by him** Ps. 25:9, not scoffers, not proud, not looking for other gods/solutions (informed by TWOT) —from this position, free to be lifted up (**rejoice**)—happy, glad (LOVE to see people free to laugh—forget self for a few moments); Acts 12:11-16;

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. Magnify—to make great in size, scale, magnitude, or importance—**flash mob** (very least, catches attention); **who are they talking about?** God (Yahweh)—He alone is God! He is good! **Exalt**—lift up, lift high, 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?**

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.

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. ²⁰ “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. ²⁵ “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. ²⁶ “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.

Psalm 73:1-9 Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart! 2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat. 5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like mankind. 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them. 7 Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot. 8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high. 9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.

Proverbs 30:7-9 Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die: ⁸ Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, ⁹ 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; ²⁴ 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. ² 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!" ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ I cared for you in the wilderness, In the land of drought. ⁶ 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. ² 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. ³ "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." ¹² 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. ¹³ When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ 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.