

## The Call to Praise Pt. 6

### Psalm 34:1-7, CBC, Wednesday, November 1, 2023 In the Lord Alone

I. **Personal Resolve to Praise** A. **In All Circumstances** this praise is heard B. **From My Mouth** <sup>1</sup> I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth; talking about praise . . . C. **Rooted in Heart's Posture** <sup>2</sup> 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; 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. Those who 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.** <sup>3</sup> O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. Yahweh alone is God! good!—let's do this together! do you find growing desire to rehearse God's goodness w others? exposes heart, shows where it focuses—if already looking to God as great/good, SEE goodness of God OR focused on what want/need which directs away from God—this is way of life/disposition, not just act; III. **Testimony Backing the Praise vv. 4-7** A. **Problem** I have troubles/need of deliverance, I'm in danger, need rescue, I'm not safe or secure, need freedom from fears B. **Disposition and Action in midst of the problem** afflicted/needy, weak; poor wretch, yet even in this miserable state, Sought/seek the Lord, looks to Him, cries to Him—THIS shows fear God; one noted, psalmist faces fear with fear; (exchanges terror with reverential fear)—trust that He over all, this NOT beyond His power—therefore looks to Him, cries to Him C. **God's work** THIS is focus of whole psalm, NOT details of event He answered, 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 and watches over His own 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, defense of people who belong to God and attacking their attackers Psalm 35:5-6; D. **Other's Testimony Aligns with Mine v. 5** Back & forth b/n psalmist & other's testimony <sup>5</sup> 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; whenever faithful/humble turned to Lord, faces lightened; II Cor. 3:18; never be ashamed, something greater than fear, terror, gloom--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 object of your faith changes you (are you looking to God? for what? Do you have hope? For what?) What keeps us from finding hope and encouragement from this testimony? Feel that the weight of our own sin disqualifies us from encouragement from God, mess of your impure responses to other's sin; see mercy of God as David's actions might not have been godly—Spurgeon reminds us to seek God even when sinned—God gives even for those broken; Sometimes too focused on self and what deliverance MUST look like that can't see deliverance of Lord, VanGemenen, protection and deliverance are not automatic—God expects evidence of allegiance in the form of "fear of God" instead of "dread of life." these hosts sent to specific ones; captain sends out orders—those who fear Him—should elevate fearing Him in your mind (ie. Money, arms to Ukraine, Israel) we often not living life with posture of reverence—shown by fear of man; World Magazine 4/22/23 "Circling the Drain" Janie Cheaney talking about current therapeutic culture "Heightened perceptions of bias and discrimination are robustly associated with mental anguish, social strain, and adverse physical outcomes," according to an examination of the data in *American Affairs*. "The more people perceive themselves to be surrounded by others who harbor bias or hostility against them, and the more they view their life prospects as hostage to a system that is fundamentally rigged against them, the more likely they become to experience anxiety, depression, [and] psychogenic and psychosomatic health problems." Put this in English subtitle, clinging to victimhood will only lead to greater mental anguish (talks of approved practice in counseling of exploring ways you've been wronged and if possible, confronting these individuals—not surprisingly, perpetrators seldom acknowledged their fault, so victim's sense of injustice intensified and formed its own feedback loop—THINK whether these are your go-to methods when someone says they have been wronged; I believe whatever horizontal is attempted, there is vertical relationship issues that must take place to relieve ROOT of anxiety/fear above horizontal relationship issues—namely, Believe if God HAS acted toward those who fear Him in past in this way, then can trust His word/character as face fears (ie. EVEN IF this takes place, God will . . . ); sometimes not willing to do work to cultivate encouragement from God Goldingay—psalmist shows link b/n theological and experiential—God's goodness lies in generosity that gives good things—also link b/n theological and behavioral—doing good thing is matter of taking right attitude to Yhwh—also link b/n behavioral and experiential—doing good leads to enjoying good—worldview here? fearing/reverencing God implies seeking help from God, that leads to deliverance; practically, Spurgeon to be heard of God is to be delivered; "Prayer can clear us of troubles as easily as the Lord made a riddance of the frogs and flies of Egypt when Moses entreated him." p. 124 Spurgeon quoted William Gurnall v. 4 "Meditation is like the lawyer's studying the case in order to his pleading at the bar: when, therefore, thou hast viewed the promise, and affected thy heart with the riches of it, then fly thee to the throne of grace, and spread it before the Lord." v. 6 cried—want cannot blush

Samuel Rutherford in Spurgeon

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.

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.

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, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.