

DELIVERANCE – PSALM 34 – Teacher’s Notes

On board:

What question would you ask your father if he were alive today?

Would your dad have been your best friend if you grew up together?

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. One of a number of alphabetical Psalms: 37, 111, 112, 119, 145, 25, 34, 103
Some every verse, some every other, every ½ verse; What about 119?
- b. Why would God use this form of poetry? Memorization aid (Mnemonics on board). God uses a number of ways to assist memory: Like what? Music (Psalms); Repetition and Review – Jewish teacher would recite 4 or more times, as did students; Vowel points in Heb; Letter shapes for visual learning
- c. Is it important to know which Psalms are alphabetical? Why or why not? We can’t translate into English without damaging the translation. Heb. Alphabet only 22 letters. Ours 26.

II. ITS NEED

- a. Superscription: I Samuel 21:10-15 ref; Psalm 56 also mentions this incident (mainly reveals David’s heart BEFORE his deliverance); let’s remember that David had feet of clay, though a heart of faith; lied to his enemies; didn’t trust God for deliverance in every circumstance; feared death at the hand of Saul; felt the responsibility of Ahimelech’s death; yet he is called “a man after God’s own heart.” Why?
- b. Our identification with the Psalmist (and others – Job, Jonah, Paul): How often has God rescued us? From violence, bad choices, sinful choices, sickness, horrible circumstances. God is merciful and delivers in spite of our sin and stupidity.
- c. Did you call upon God for deliverance before you were a true believer? God is merciful to the just and unjust.

III. ITS MANNER - Verses 4, 6, 7, 15-18

- a. The Psalmist’s pattern – Psalm 3:4; 18:6; 30:2,3; 40:1; 116:1,2: Is it our pattern in 21st century American evangelicalism?
- b. Conditional? Psalm 24:4; 66:18 Was this true of David when he feigned madness in front of Achish?

IV. **ITS RESULT - Verses 1-3 ; Deliverance through answered prayers DEMANDS our heartfelt thanksgiving and praise**

- a. Blessing: - When God blesses us, we MUST bless Him! "To bless God for mercies is the way to increase them . . . " William Dyer
- b. Praising: Frequency? At all times; "Those blessings are sweetest that are won with prayer, and worn with thanks." Thomas Goodwin; Psalm 33:1 - There is beauty in praise; "Praise is a soul in flower." Thomas Watson
- c. Boasting: We can never boast and be proud of God too much. We can never magnify Him enough. And the smaller we see ourselves in our own eyes, the larger He becomes in our hearts and lives. "Let us exalt His name together!" How do we do this? Congregation. How do we do it best? One on one or with a few.

V. **ITS EXHORTATION - Verses 8-22**

- a. Taste and see - vs. 8: How, exactly? Figuratively. Psalm 119:103: His words; His blessings are tasted: "Heaven and earth are replete with the blessings of God." Augustus Tholuck; Eph. 1:3 - "all spiritual blessings" as well; We taste and see God Himself - In his wonderful, glorious and beautiful person, character and attributes; "Heavenly blessings are infinitely sweeter than any earthly pleasure or treasure." Dave Skinner
- b. Fear the Lord - vs. 9: Meaning? "Pay to Him humble, childlike reverence, walk in His laws, have respect to His will, tremble to offend Him, and hasten to serve Him." C.H. Spurgeon
- c. Seek the Lord - vs. 10: "not want any good thing." Good is the operative word here. What the world may think is good may not be for our best. In the general sense, a Christian who is close to God will be provided for - food, clothing, shelter, family. What about persecuted Christians around the world who have everything taken from them?
- d. Listen - vs. 11: Psalm 32:8 - God's word is our main teacher; As worldly wise and learned we might be in literature, history, politics - these must be subordinate to hearing God's voice
- e. Keep your tongue - vs. 13: Let's just skip this verse! This is a darling sin to many. We have a love/hate relationship going on here. We pray and fail over and over. Matthew 12:34-37
- f. Depart from evil - vs. 14: How do we do this practically speaking? Social media, entertainment, profane people must be weighed in the balance and found wanting. "Abhor that which is evil, cling to that which is good."

- g. Seek peace - vs. 14: Hebrews 12:14 - Don't be easily offended. "A soft answer turns away wrath." Proverbs 15:1
- h. Cry unto God - vs. 15, 17: A reminder of vs. 4
- i. Understand the end of the wicked - vs. 16, 21: Certain, just, humbling
- j. Prize humility and contrition - vs. 18: What greater blessing than to know God's nearness? He was near us in the Garden before sin. He is near us in Christ's redemption from it.
- k. Have hope in the midst of affliction - vs. 19, 20: The world's afflictions are certain and many. God's affection is both certain and mighty.
- l. Trust that you belong to God - vs 22: "Believer, thou shalt never be deserted, forsaken, or given up to ruin. God, even thy God, is thy guardian and friend . . ." C.H. Spurgeon
- m. One cross reference to add to the list: Psalm 77: 10ff

Calvin - "The temple, indeed, in which God manifested himself was, as it were, a heaven on earth."

In summary: Spurgeon, "For one moment just look at this picture. You will be delivered, and God will be glorified in your deliverance just as he was in the coming out of Egypt, but it will be by a mysterious way, perhaps - a way little guessed at by you. God's path will be in the great waters. You will see his power, but before you see it you will little guess how it will be displayed. Only follow where he leads, for as amidst the thunder and lightning he led his people as calmly on as a shepherd leads his flock, so shall you, whatever happens, with Jehovah for your shepherd, be led safely on till you come to the Celestial City."

VI. PARTING THOUGHTS

[Covered a-c last time]

- a. 2 Corinthians 12:8,9 "My strength is made perfect in weakness."
- b. Romans 8:28 "All things work together for good . . ."
- c. Romans 8:20-23: "The whole creation groans" because of sin. It is best that we cultivate a greater hatred for sin - knowing that it is the root cause of all our affliction and suffering.
- d. God may *not* deliver us when we call upon Him.
 - i. John 11:3,21,32
 - ii. I Peter 1:6,7
 - iii. 2 Cor. 12:7-10 - Joni Eareckson Tada