

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

For Discussion:



1. What is your favorite part of Psalm 28?
2. What did you learn from David's petition? From his praise?
3. What parts of this Psalm drew you towards worship? Which lines filled you with awe?

Psa. 28 Of David.

Psa. 28:1 To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit.

2 Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.

3 Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts.

4 Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back on them what they deserve.

5 Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again.

6 Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.

7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

8 The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.

9 Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

All scriptures are NIV(2011) unless otherwise noted.



May 18 & 19, 2019 | Joy in the Psalms #2 | Dennis Miller, pastor

LESSONS

1. God is HOLY. He wants His people to acknowledge His holiness through WORSHIP, and He desires holiness from THOSE who worship Him.
2. This holy God is all-powerful and yet longs for a PERSONAL relationship with all those who call on His name. To draw near to Him is to know great JOY!

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PSALMS

1. The Book of Psalms is the LARGEST section of the Bible (but not the largest book in number of words). No book is more READ or referenced.
2. King David wrote at least 75 of the Psalms and there were MANY other authors. The Psalms were written as "lyric poems" to express the EMOTION of the writer.
3. The Psalms were Israel's SONGBOOK and the 150 Psalms are divided into FIVE sections around basic THEMES.
4. Some Psalms were written in GOOD times (65) and some in very DIFFICULT times (51), but they all find HOPE, purpose and eventually JOY in the God of heaven.

1. THE PRAYER OF PETITION

Psa. 28:1 To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit. 2 Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place. 3 Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts. 4 Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back on them what they deserve. 5 Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again.

a. This Psalm was written by David, but we don't know what SITUATION caused him to write it. It was obviously PAINFUL and possibly deadly.

b. David shared THREE requests:

1. That the Lord would HEAR his plea. David, even with all his success, was not afraid to CRY OUT to God for help.

— He refers to God as Jehovah, ROCK, Most HOLY Place.

— His plea is CLEAR without any pride in himself: *I call; no deaf ear; don't be SILENT; I will die; my cry for mercy; I call for HELP; I lift my hands.*

2. That he would NOT be swept away with the wicked. In the Bible, the word "WICKED" is used in two ways:

— There is the INNATE wickedness within all mankind.

Psalms 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Jer. 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Isa 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

— There are those who constantly ACT wickedly. This is the GROUP about which David is speaking. In this case, the people are hypocritical and HATEFUL.

3. That God would REPAY these wicked people for the way they are acting and give them what they DESERVE. David was not praying against his OWN enemies, but God's!

— They do EVIL work.

— They have no REGARD for God's work.

— They DESERVE destruction with no chance of parole.

2. THE PRAYER OF PRAISE

Psa. 28:6 Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy. 7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. 8 The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. 9 Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

a. When David's prayer is ANSWERED, he stops to acknowledge God and THANK Him. In fact, he goes back to continue WRITING the Psalm and celebrates God for what He has done. (*How often do you return to thank Him?*)

— Please note that it is GOOD to thank God for answered prayer even if the answer is NOT what you were hoping for.

b. David then lists many QUALITIES of God as he worships:

1. He is our strength and SHIELD.

2. He is TRUSTWORTHY.

3. He is our HELPER.

4. He is the strength of His PEOPLE.

5. He is protection for the ANOINTED one.

c. David explains his REACTIONS to God's goodness: *his heart LEAPS for joy and he breaks into SONGS of praise!*

d. David closes with a final PETITION that acts as a benediction. It is a reminder of how prayer REFOCUSES us on others.

Psa. 28:9 Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

3. THE LESSONS WE LEARN

a. We are all wicked in our NATURE, but Jesus took care of that for us on the cross. However, we need to choose not to LIVE wickedly (hands).

b. It is good to be SPECIFIC in prayer and to ask God for HELP. It is also good to take the time to THANK and praise Him.

c. As you pray, practice UNSELFISHNESS and pray for the needs of others, for the CHURCH and for the Kingdom.