

DSC Community Group

Sermon Summary, 9/11/2011

Title: "An Invitation to the Psalms"

Text: Psalms

Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him: A Study in the Psalms" (Ps. 62:8)

Preacher: Ryan Kelly

1. Where are the Psalms? Why?

- History (Gen-Esther), Wisdom Literature (Job-Song of Solomon), Prophets (Isaiah-Malachi).
- Each Psalm is embedded in the history of the OT: One written by Moses, more than half by David.

2. What are the Psalms?

- "The Psalms are songs or poems about the *history, theology, and experience* of communion with the covenant-keeping God, who reigns and redeems."

3. What's Unique about the Psalms?

- It's a book uniquely about worship, songs/singing, prayers, experience, God/us. It mingles doctrine and delight. It's for all occasions. It's personal and corporate. It's about Christ. It's a whole-Bible book.
- A good point to expand on: "It's a book for all occasions."
 - Psa 104 is like a creation video.
 - Psa 1, 19, 119 make up a majority part of what the Bible says about itself.
 - Psa 139 is some of the best Scripture about the personhood of the unborn.
 - Psa 4 is an "evening Psalm" Psa 5 is a "morning Psalm."

4. What Themes are in the Psalms?

- Themes: doubt, fear, desertion, enemies, threat, joy, hope of global praise, God's character, historical recounting, repentance, grace/mercy, God's Word, the coming king.
- Kinds: Praise (33), Thanksgiving (136), Distress/Deliverance (61), Repentance (38), Complacet/Lament (13), Confidence (23, 27), Judgment (69), Historical (78), About a King (2).

5. What is the Layout/Structure of the Psalms?

- The book of Psalms is divided into 5 books, outlined roughly around David's life (1-2 before his kingship; 3 dark years; 4 God is king; 5 God's reign is perfectly fulfilled).
- The Psalms were individually written and rehearsed looking forward to God's future Messiah.

6. How Should We Use the Psalms Today?

- Read them repeatedly, go hunting for help when you need it (9/11 and Psalm 46), develop favorites, memorize some of them, and use them as a springboard for prayer.

Sample Questions:

- What is unique about the book of Psalms?
- John Calvin wrote, "Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and the knowledge of ourselves." What Psalms teach us about the Word of God and what do they say (Psa 1, 19, 119)?
- When and how have you been specifically helped by this book in the past (occasion/Psalm)?
- Where would you turn to comfort someone who is suffering (46)? To pray for the nations (67)?