

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 10/02/2011

Title: "When your Whole World is on the Brink"

Text: Psalm 3

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

Preacher: Ryan Kelly

"David would doubtless make many of us uncomfortable if he lived today. He was such an intense man - exuberant in his pleasures, crushed in his discouragement, powerful in his leadership, unrestrained in his worship." - D.A. Carson

1. Lament (1-2)

- Laments are often called complaints, but "complaint" carries with it some wrong connotations. We complain when we're owed something. Not so here.
- Examples of unacceptable complaint in the Bible: Israel in the wilderness grumbling; Job 38-42.
- Some people need to hear that we have a sympathetic Savior (Hebrews 4). Others need to hear that laments in the Psalms are honest, but not unguarded. It may question, but it does not accuse.
- What exactly were David's lamentable circumstances? Several Psalms have titles. Some of those give historical context. Psalms 3 does so especially: "A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son." We find the background to this Psalm in 2 Samuel, chapters 2-16.

2. Remembrance (3-5)

- David remembers who God is and what God does and responds to God's response to him.
- Consider God's perfect care for the perfectly helpless - all of us when sleeping.
- These first two points help with diagnosis, to see what's going on and to see it with God in view. Sometimes feelings of sadness/anger are wrong, right, unexplainable, or a little of everything.

3. Resolve (6)

- Imagine David's situation. "1000's of people against me," with enemies "all around."
- David preaches to himself: "I will not be afraid." This is more of a preaching to himself that he should not be afraid, than a triumphant declaration that he is not afraid.

4. Request (7-8)

- Notice that this is a general request. He's not presuming to tell what exactly what to do. Save me!

Sample Questions:

- Context: Can someone rehearse for us what we learned from the title of the Psalm? Give the highlights of the background to this Psalm (e.g. Where is it found in the Old Testament? Who are the main characters? What are the main events, sins, promises?)? How was the title of this sermon true for David at this time he was writing this Psalm?
- Lament: What is and is not lament? Why didn't Ryan use the word, "complaint," to describe vss 1-2 and other similar psalms? What are examples of "complaint" in the Bible that was unacceptable to God? In light of this, Ryan gave examples of two kinds of people when it comes to lament psalms - who are they and what do they need to hear? Who are you? What do you generally do with your laments (bottle them up, air them to friends, throw them in God's face, tell them to God)?
- Structure of Psalm 3/Gospel: Ryan said that Psalm 3, like all psalms, can function as a model for us. What is the progression here (See outline)? 1) What are your laments? 2) What does David *remember*? When have you personally known God as the lifter of your head? If this is you now, why are you feeling defeated? Who/What are you looking to for this lifting now? What do you know to be true of God and His ways, regardless of these circumstances? 3) Given this, what ought you resolve to do/think/feel? 4) What do you ultimately need from God that only He can provide?
- Gospel: Ryan noted that David, almost strangely, does not confess or repent of sin in this Psalm. We can assume that he was doing this in the background, but what is the significance of this being absent here? He says only, "Salvation belongs to the Lord." In all of our messes, He is our only hope and help.