A Safe Place ‘Til the Storm Passes January 10, 2021

*Psalm 57*

“Whatever dark tunnel we may be called upon to travel through, God has been there.”- Elisabeth Elliot

Intro: Waiting for the light at the end of the tunnel.

How should you respond when you are stuck in a cave and the storms of destruction are raging?

1. David was in the cave, afraid for his life.

**“**A Miktamof David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.”

1 Samuel 22:1 *David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam.*

v. 1 *till the storms of destruction pass by*

1. David was feeling as though he was under constant attack.

v. 3 *he will put to shame him who tramples on me*

v. 4 *My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts*

1. David was feeling the weight of sharp words.

v. 4 *whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords*

1. David was feeling trapped and cornered.

v. 6 *They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down*

* How do you think David was feeling when he was in the cave?
* When in your life have you felt like the storms of destruction were raging?
* When you feel the attacks and sharp words of others, where do you look for comfort and rest?

1. Cry out to God for mercy.
2. David looked to God first in his most critical moment of need.

v. 1 *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge*

1. David recognized that God is the only one who can save him.

v. 2 *I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.*

* Why is it so powerful that this is how David begins this Psalm?
* What stops you from pleading to God for mercy during tough times?
* How can looking to God as your first reaction change your whole perspective of your circumstances and challenges?

1. Declare God as your refuge.
2. David knew that God was his safe place during the storm.

v. 1 *in you my soul takes refuge*

v. 1 *in the shadow of your wings, I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by*

1. David trusted in God’s love and faithfulness towards him.

v. 2 *to God who fulfills his purpose for me*

v. 3 *He will send from heaven and save me … God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!*

v. 6 *They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves.*

* What does it mean to you that God is our safe place?
* What can you learn from David’s example of finding refuge in God even at the time when he was in physical danger?
* Why is it important to not just believe in God’s love, but to declare our trust in Him?

1. Pursue God’s glory above your circumstances.
2. Even in despair, David’s wish for God to be glorified is his heart’s refrain.

vv. 5, 11 *Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!*

1. Even in tribulation, David aligned his heart to focus on the Lord.

v. 7 *My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!*

1. Even in the cave, David prioritized worshipping God.

v. 7-8 *I will sing and make melody! Awake, my glory!*

v. 8 *Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!*

v. 9 *I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.*

1. Even in your tunnels, remember that God’s love is your light.

v. 10 *For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.*

John 1:5 *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

2 Corinthians 4:6 *for God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

* Does your desire for God to be glorified typically depend on your circumstances? Is it usually easier or harder to praise Him in the “stormy” seasons?
* How can you be better at prioritizing worship in your life?
* In what ways does knowing Christ affect your search for “the light at the end of the tunnel”?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Romans 6:1-14 .

Notes