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Praise-Yielding Grace; Psalm 30
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Introduction - I take praise-yielding grace to be the key theme of psalm 30, read vv1,11a,12b. By praise-yielding grace, I mean that God's grace functions in our lives on 3 levels. First, grace meets our deepest needs that only God can meet. Second, when our deepest needs are filled by God's grace, we experience rich joy. Third, grace-induced, joy-filled hearts always erupt in praise back to God. Praise is not only the right response to God's grace, it is also the spontaneous, willing, and glad response to God's grace.

This model of back-and-forth, grace to us-glory to Him, is the ultimate interaction in our relationship with God. We get the grace-He gets the glory. He fills us with joy-we respond to Him in praise. He answers prayer-we give Him thanks. God, being God, is by nature gracious. We, being His by creation and through redemption, react to Him in worship. This back-and-forth relation with God is where we find our purpose and meaning in life. This pattern for life is found throughout Scripture, and this is what David celebrates in Psalm 30.

The header informs us that David meant for this song to be sung at the dedication of the temple. As we know, David was not around for the dedication of the temple. His son, Solomon, would build and dedicate the temple to the Lord. This, then, is an act of faith for David. He knows he will not be around to dedicate the temple, but he also knows it will happen because the Lord has promised. Read 2 Sam 7:12-13.

As you read through this psalm it becomes clear that David probably didn't compose this psalm at the time the promise was given, but at a much later date in David's life under much different circumstances. 2 Sam 24 records one of the last events in David's life is when he sinned against the Lord by taking a census of all the men who were able to battle. This demonstrated a lack of trust and faith in God, and God, through the prophet Gad, allowed David to choose what form of judgment would fall upon Israel for his sin. 3 years of famine-3 months of being pursued by their foes-or 3 days of pestilence. David chose the 3 days of pestilence relying on the mercy of God over the evil of men. The angel of the Lord brought calamity

throughout the land for 3 days until he reached Jerusalem, at a spot on Mount Moriah, which happened to belong to a Jebusite named Araunah. David cried to the Lord for mercy, purchased the threshing floor from Araunah, built an altar on that spot, and made sacrifice to God. And because a sacrificial offering was made as worship to the Lord, the judgment for sin was ended. 2 Chron 3:1 reveals that Solomon built the temple on that very same plot of ground. So it was probably there at the threshing floor of Araunah, where substitutionary sacrifice was made, the judgement of God averted, and grace given, that David came to know in full measure about praise-yielding grace.

I. Past Grace and Present Praise (vv1-3)

- A. There is much praise-yielding grace at work in David's life. Read emphasizing the "fors" and "yous". God has been David's Deliverer (v1), God has been David's Healer (v2), and God has been David's Savior (v3). David has known God to be gracious in external calamity, physical calamity, and eternal calamity.
 - B. With all of this grace in David's life, he can't help but praise God. He says, "I will extol You", that is, I will magnify You. When I should have been defeated, You brought victory. When I should have died, You answered prayer. When I deserved to die in my sin, You saved me. David doesn't have to look far back in his life to see that God has been gracious.
 - C. How about us? How has God been gracious to us? How has He worked in ordinary and extraordinary ways to care and protect and provide? How has He answered prayer in ways that only He could answer? How did He save You? Let us join in David's excellent praise!
 - D. Think about this. How would you end this sentence? I will extol You, O Lord, for You have _____. There is not a single believer among us who would not have multiple answers to that question. For some of us, recent grace may be fresh and clear as we have seen God's hand move on our behalf. Maybe for some of us, we know grace is there even though the clutter of life makes the flame of grace look as if its but a sparkle. Yet, it is still there. For all believers, the mighty grace of salvation shines in our history as a beacon, marking a new era, lighting a new path, and pointing to a new destiny.
 - E. Let us be among those who extol our God for He has been gracious.
- #### II. Grace to One Yields Praise From All (vv4-5)

- A. Now this is a new dynamic of praise-yielding grace. Praise is contagious, for David, based on his experience of God's grace in his life, is calling on all of God's people to join him in praising the Lord.
- B. David, through personal experience, has come to know something of the grace of God toward His people, namely that grace is eventually inevitable because God is who He is. Because we know God will be gracious, we can endure, we can persevere, we can trust, we can wait - we can make it through the night because morning is inevitable.
- C. David says, "Yes there were 3 days of plague due to sin, but then there was mercy." This not only how God acts, but how God is - v5a.
- D. Watch this - David calls for us to join him in praise because he has learned through his own life something about the gracious character of God. Therefore, if God is gracious this way because God IS this way, then God will be gracious to each and every one of us in the same way. If God is 5a, then 5b is true for us all.
- E. Therefore, sing praise to the Lord, O you His saints.

III. Praising God for Lessons on Grace (vv6-10)

- A. Just as David identified something of the character of God in v5, he identifies something of his own character in v6, and I would say, something in all of us. Just as he noted God is gracious in v5, he notes that he is prideful in v6. read v6.
 - 1. But he was moved wasn't he? He was moved right off the throne and right out of town by his own son in earlier days. He was moved to begging God to stay His hand of judgement in the 3 days of plague. It was pride that caused him to number the men of war.
 - 2. Pride is ever at the door of our hearts, and he knocks the loudest at times of ease and comfort. We so easily take the credit for accomplishments, we so easily neglect God in times of ease, we so easily think ourselves self-made in times of success. Pride is the great deceiver and the great idolator.
- B. David confesses in v7 it was God who had made him strong, not himself. God deserved the glory, not David. And so God gave David a reminder - He hid His face - and when He hid His face, David was moved. Exactly what David has said in his pride would never happen, happened immediately without the sustaining grace of God.
- C. Now look what happens in vv8-10. It's a completely different David than v6. David learned a pride-killing truth. If everything crumbled before David when God hid His face that meant the one upholding

everything when life was stable and sound was not David, it was God. He learned the truth of what Jesus declares in John 15 - apart from Him we can do nothing.

D. There are two lessons on grace here.

1. God is the one who gives strength, success, enables us to accomplish, blesses with times of ease, stability. Grace is the source of any sort of enjoyment in this life.
2. It is not only grace when life is stable, it is grace when life is crumbling around us. Isn't it grace that God corrected David in his pride? It is also grace when God corrects us, disciplines us, tries us, stretches us through various trials and storms. It is grace because God uses these things to draw us back to Him.
 - a) look where David is in v6 - and look where David is in v10.

E. Wherever you are this evening, in a season of ease or in a season of trial, you can be assured of this, in some way, God is being gracious to you - right now - He always is - and for that we give Him praise!

IV. Past Grace and Future Praise (vv11-12)

A. Notice again the grace of v11 is for the praise of v12.

B. God has been gracious enough that praise is never-ending.

C. What I have really enjoyed about our study through the psalms is that over and over again David uses temporary examples of God's salvation to illustrate how God saves eternally. Every time David reflects on how God has saved him in the here and now, it causes him to rejoice in how God has saved him forever. So David usually begins a psalm with respect to his immediate circumstances, but ends his psalm in heaven, in the presence of God, forever.

D. His point here is a point well taken by every believer - since God has saved us eternally, will we not praise Him eternally for doing so?

Conclusion - Is this a Christian psalm? After all, it was to be sung at the dedication of the temple. As Christians, we don't worship at the temple. Do we then discard this psalm? The answer of course is no. We don't discard it, we sing it with the full spiritual meaning of it. God has given a Son, He is building an eternal house, and His people will praise Him forever!