

June 28 *A Lament Over Being Betrayed By a Close Friend*

Psalm 55 *To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David.* 1 Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy! 2 Attend to me and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan 3 because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they drop trouble upon me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me. 4 My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me. 5 Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me. 6 And I say, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest; 7 yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; *Selah* 8 I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest.” 9 Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues; for I see violence and strife in the city. 10 Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it; 11 ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace. 12 For it is not an enemy who taunts me—then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—then I could hide from him. 13 But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. 14 We used to take sweet counsel together; within God’s house we walked in the throng. 15 Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart. 16 But I call to God, and the Lord will save me. 17 Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice. 18 He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me. 19 God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, *Selah* because they do not change and do not fear God. 20 My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant. 21 His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. 22 Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. 23 But you, O

God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

David moves from fear to fury to faith in a lament.

I. Expressions of Fear (v1-8)

A. Addressing God with passion (v1-2a)

Isaiah 66:2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Matthew 11:28–30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Hebrews 4:14–16 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

B. Personal condition (v2b,4,5,)

C. The basis of complaint (v3)

D. The depth of hurt (v6-8)

Matthew 18:15–17 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he

listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Revelation 3:20 & 21 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

II. Experiencing Fury (v9-15)

A. The battle belongs to the Lord (v9a)

Genesis 11:7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

2 Samuel 15:31 And it was told David, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” And David said, “O Lord, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.”

B. The power of the tongue (v9b-11)

James 3:5 & 6 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

Psalm 53:1 The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.

Psalm 58:3 & 4 The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies. 4 They have venom like the venom of a serpent, like the deaf adder that stops its ear,

C. This hurt is personal (v12-14)

2 Samuel 16:12 It may be that the Lord will look on the

wrong done to me, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing today.”

Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

2 Timothy 2:13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

D. The future for a hypocrite (v15)

Matthew 13:37-43 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Numbers 16:31-33 And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. **32** And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. **33** So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

III. Essence of Faith (v16-23)

A. Priority One (v16 & 17)

Lamentations 3:19-23 Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! **20** My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. **21** But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: **22** The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; **23** they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Isaiah 55:6 “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near

Isaiah 55:1-3 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. **2** Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. **3** Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Daniel 6:10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

B. Affirmation of faith (v18)

Psalms 116:12-14 What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? **13** I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, **14** I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Psalms 116:1-5 I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!” Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

C. Woe to those who offend (v19-21)

Matthew 26:24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of

him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

Matthew 18:6 & 7 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. **7** “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!

Luke 6:27 & 28 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

D. Faith in action and the action of a faithful God-v22&23

Ecclesiastes 11:1 Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Job 17:9 Yet the righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger.

Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind he was afraid and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.”

Psalms 76:10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise you; the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt.

Proverbs 16:4 The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Proverbs 3:5&6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths