

Evening Sermon Outline – June 30, 2019

“Wise Whining” Psalm 31

I. Wise whining is aimed at God –

¹ In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness. ² Bow down Your ear to me, Deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. ³ For You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name’s sake, Lead me and guide me. ⁴ Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, For You are my strength. ⁵ Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth. Psalm 31:1-5

1. Way back in Psalm 3 we heard David crying –

⁴ I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Psalm 3:4

And if we reviewed all of the Psalms that we have considered so far many contain David’s cries to God ...

2. Here you might say David is making His cry to God public – To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The title means it would be sung in public; the King is ordering it!

3. Yet, here I want to show you the wisdom in David’s whining, it is aimed at God:

A. Because God is trustworthy – Psalm 31:1

B. He counts on God for deliverance, even speedy deliverance – Psalm 31:1B – 2

C. He counts on God’s listening ear – Psalm 31:2 A

D. God is His Rock, His fortress – Psalm 31:3

Sometimes good friends are like this, or spouses, and they should be, but no one out-Rocks or out-Fortresses God! Most come painfully short!

E. He counts on God for pulling out of nets and being his true Strength – Psalm 31:4

F. He commits his spirit to God, because God had proven Himself to David – Psalm 31:5

II. Wise whining realizes how futile (or stupid) it is to look elsewhere for help –

⁶ I have hated those who regard useless idols; But I trust in the LORD. Psalm 31:6

Here the Hebrew word translated hatred נָאֵשׁ san-A includes the idea of despising! David despises those who trust in worthless idols, opposite of this is trusting in the LORD!

1. Professional Counselors, Bruce Willis in “The Kid” played an image counselor, who had many of his own problems, yet he was still highly regarded – “Somebody Call the wham-ambulance!” He made sure they knew he did not care!

2. Sometimes even our friends, or family prove very unsympathetic – ⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!” Job 2:9

3. God is far superior –

A. In mercy –

⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, Psalm 31:7 A

B. In thoughtful consideration, and real helpful personal knowledge –

For You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities, Psalm 31:7 B

C. In actual power to make a difference –

⁸ And have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a wide place. Psalm 31:8

III. Wise whining is open and honest about pains and difficulties –

⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; My eye wastes away with grief, Yes, my soul and my body! ¹⁰ For my life is spent with grief, And my years with sighing;... Psalm 31:9-10 A

IV. *Wise whining knows the biggest reason problem worth whining about is SELF –*

My strength fails because of my iniquity, And my bones waste away. Psalm 31:10 B

1. *The worst part of any problem is part that is our own! This Psalm is probably for David about him and Bathsheba, Uriah the Hittite, who David murdered ... and Absalom his rebellious son! David had no strength because he lacked moral strength, and this was all made public too, therefore –*

2. *He was a reproach, because he deserved to be ...*

¹¹ I am a reproach among all my enemies, But especially among my neighbors, And *am* repulsive to my acquaintances; Those who see me outside flee from me. ¹² I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. ¹³ For I hear the slander of many; Fear *is* on every side; While they take counsel together against me, They scheme to take away my life. Psalm 31:11-13

A. *David knew God knew these things ...*

B. *David knew from God, he deserved these things, as God allowed them, yet they were still hard – Psalm 31:11-13*

C. *David knew God was in control –*

¹⁵ **My times are in Your hand; ... Psalm 31:15**

“He has no greater battle than he who labors to overcome himself” - Thomas A Kempis

V. *Wise whining is powerful praying, involving: –*

1. Trust -

¹⁴ **But as for me, I trust in You, Psalm 31:14**

2. Personal relationship -

O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” Psalm 31:14 B

3. Trust in God’s sovereign power to deliver -

¹⁵ **My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me. Psalm 31:15**

4. *A desire / prayer to see God’s smiling favor -*

¹⁶ **Make Your face shine upon Your servant; Save me for Your mercies’ sake.**

5. *A desire / prayer for relative justice -*

¹⁷ **Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You; Let the wicked be ashamed; Let them be silent in the grave. ¹⁸ Let the lying lips be put to silence, Which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous. Psalm 31:17-18**

VI. *Wise whining always knows in the end to praise God –*

¹⁹ **Oh, how great *is* Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, *Which* You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men! ²⁰ You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues. ²¹ Blessed *be* the LORD, For He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city! ²² For I said in my haste, “I am cut off from before Your eyes”; Nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications When I cried out to You. ²³ Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! *For* the LORD preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person. ²⁴ Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD. Psalm 31:19-24**

1. *Praise Him for His great goodness:*

A. *It is laid up – meaning safe / preserved - Psalm 31:19*

B. *For God fearers, who trust Him - Psalm 31 :19*

C. *It includes protection and peace - Psalm 31:20*

2. *Bless Him –*

A. *For marvelous kindness - Psalm 31:21*

B. *Unexpected kindness - Psalm 31:22*

C. *Answered prayer - Psalm 31:22*

3. *Love the LORD –*

A. *For preservation - Psalm 31:23*

B. *For justice - Psalm 31:23*

4. *Be of good courage - Psalm 31:24*

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