

Rhema Christian Center

July 12, 2022 Bible Study: Willie Bryant presenter

Psalms 56 NKJV

Author: David to the Chief Musician. Set to 'The Silent Dove in Distant Lands.' A Michtam of David when the Philistines captured him in Gath.

Michtam (Hebrew word of unknown meaning. In Modern Hebrew, the word Michtam has come to mean epigram.

Wikipedia : An epigram is a brief, interesting, memorable and sometimes surprising or satirical statement.

Strong's 3799.; an engraving, a poem – Michtam

Brief insight about a Dove:

The dove was thought of as innocent and harmless. Many religions and cultures celebrate the dove as a symbol of peace. "The dove is not a predator, but is prey. The dove does not kill but is killed. A dove in unfamiliar territory would act frighten. **A tune named** "the silent dove in distant land would sound frighten, unpleasant and dangerous." (Don Ruhl)

When the "Philistines took David in Gath, he was like a dove in strangers' hands, and on his escape, he records his gratitude"

The name that David gave this tune reflects the mood of the tune, a dove in a land where he did not belong. "The tune changes when he was set free to roam." (C Wesley)

Back ground:

David was innocent of any wrongdoing toward Israel's King Saul. Saul was a treacherous man, viciously seeking David's life

David was alone, afraid, desperate, and not thinking too clearly...

To escape King Saul, David made a decision to flee from Saul, to Gath the enemy of Israel the Philistines. ("the home of the giant Goliath") carrying the sword of Goliath the Philistine whom he had recently slayed. David was in great danger.

The Philistines reminded their king of David's victories against them. Fearing for his life David pretended to be insane and the King's men drove him away from the King. (Read this story in 1 Samuel 21:8-15 Msg Bible)

Psalm 56 verses 1-13 A Michtam of David when he was captured in Gath.

Verse 1 Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me

Verse 2 My enemies would hound me all day, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High.

Here we can see where fear and trust wage a battle within. Fear never drives us in the right direction. (But trust win)

Fear of Saul drove David to the Philistine country. When he was recognized there, he feared and pretended madness to escape.

Fear is an emotion, it is positive when it helps us to avoid a dangerous situation, but fear is negative when it keeps us from doing the right thing.

So, David was fearful, what did David do?

- He turned to God in prayer for deliverance and mercy.
- He told God ALL about his daily battles and what and who was troubling him.

VS 3 Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

Vs 4 In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

In verses 3-4 David encouraged himself, saying I have put my trust, **I will** praise his word, **I will** not fear what man can do to me.

Lesson to learn here is:

When we are experiencing trials -whether we made unwise decisions or actions others create trouble in our lives, we should do as David, encourage our selves. Remember the promises of God. Remember what God already done for you. God said in his word, "I will never leave you nor forsake you". Trust God, even in the shadow of death TRUST GOD.

Charles Spurgeon note: "David was afraid and not afraid, saying the condition of his mind was complexed- he feared but that fear did not fill the whole area of his mind; because he said I WILL TRUST.

It is possible, then, for fear and faith to occupy the mind at the same time.

"It is a bless fear that drives us to trust. "Faith drives out fear".

Spurgeon on to say..."it became a fact in David's life, let it also be ours, whether the fear comes from without or within, from the past present or future, from temporals, or spirituals, from men or devils, let us maintain faith, and we shall soon recover courage. We must read and study God's Word; praise his word and pray in the spirit. God keeps his promises.

VS 5 All day they twist my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil.

VS 6 They gather together, they hide, they mark my steps, when they lie in wait for my life.

Vs 7 Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God!

Vss 5--7 speaks of David's constant danger:

David was under relentless struggle running from Saul and his attackers in pursuit and plotting against him. In verse 6" they gather themselves together. There is an old saying "in building a fire 1 stick will burn small, push many together will burn fiercer, put more sticks together becomes a forest fire".

Vs 8 You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

Behind The idea keeping of "tears in a bottle" is remembrance. David is expressing a deep trust in God will remember his sorrow and tears and will not forget about him.

CONSIDER **2Kings 20:5** asv "Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the prince of my people, thus saith Jehovah, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee; on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of Jehovah."

Our tears are not in vain; God knows each of his children (us) intimately. He remembers our sorrow as if he keeps, each tear in a bottle, in the end, He will wipe every tear from their (our) eyes. "Will be no death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things passes away. Rev 21:4

VS 9 When I cry out to You, then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me.

God is for me: is saying in God I trust; I will not be afraid what man can do to me."

"**Romans 8:31 GW2** says: "What can we say about all of this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Romans 8:31 (PEV) says: "So as we think about all of this, what do we learn? It is this. We are on God's side. He is with us, so it doesn't matter who is against us, they can't win against God."

Romans 8:38-39 NLT says: "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord

we have to be confident God can change our circumstances.

God help those who seek Him. Psalms 121:7-8 HCSB says: The Lord will protect you from all harm, He will protect your life. The Lord will protect your coming and going both now and forever.

V10 In God (I will praise His word), In the Lord (I will praise His word),

Vs 11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Question? **What is the word?** Here we must learn the Word of God, what is the word saying to you, obey the word and praise the word we learned.

“In order to gain strength and confidence in life’s journey we must put our trust in God”

Vs 12 Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You,

A vow is an oath or pledge. A solemn promise or assertion – specifically: one by which a person is bound to act, service, or condition. (M. Dictionary)

Here David vows to God, “I will render praises to you”.

We must be careful about what we pledge or vow to. If we make vows, we should not forget the vows. If we voluntarily make a vow, we should cheerfully keep them.

VS 13 For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the land of the living?

Here David is thanking God for delivering him from death. His enemies were defeated in their attempt upon his life. Therefore, David vowed to devote his life to God.

God again been faithful, and David could walk freely in God’s life-giving light.

In summary, what are some golden nuggets we can gleam from Psalm 56?

In our lives we may face injustice, people may slander us, plot against us or twist our words to cause us harm, we may also, encounter hardships that may leave us feeling helpless. Crisis like these can be draining, feeling a wide range of emotions such as anxiety, terror, emotional stress. These conditions can cause headache, ulcers, heart attack, high blood pressure and other physical conditions.

Like David, we might make unwise decisions that may results in our conditions worse.

In times like these what are we to do?

- Pour out your heart to God, cry out for His mercy.
- Ask God to execute justice.
- Praise God and give thanks to Him.

If we are wise, we will like David **cast** our burdens on the Lord. Cast (Shalak) also use for breaking the chains or rope that hold a person captive.) Remember, “when we choose to bear our own burdens, they become chains that keeps us in bondage to fear, dread, and worry. But when we give our burdens to the Lord, we are set free to live in the realm of peace and faith.”

God’s Word says We are to do:

1 Peter 5:8-9 CEV “Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack. But you must resist the devil and stay strong in your faith. You know that all over the world the Lord's followers are suffering just as you are”

- Cast **all** your cares upon the lord, for He careth for you/us (1 Peter 5:7)
- Come to me, **all** ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls (Matt11:28-29)
- Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Ph.4:6-7)
- And call upon me in the day of trouble: **I will deliver thee**, and thou shall glorify me (Ps 50:15)
- He shall call upon me, **and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him** and honor him (Ps 91:15)
- “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: (for he is faithful that promised” (Hebrew 10: 23)
- Lastly, know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments is a thousand generations” (Deut 7:9)
- For God hath not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and love, and of a sound mind” (2Tim1:7) The Amp says “he has given us a spirit of power and of love and calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control”.

So therefore, we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Hebrew 13:6)

The righteous person faces many troubles, but the LORD comes to the rescue each time.”

Psalms 34:19

AMEN

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