

October 1, 2017

Series: Authentic: Living Life through the Psalms

Title: Jesus Speaks

Text: Psalms 22

Introduction:

- This is one of the Royal Psalms, they are the psalms concerned with kingship and sovereignty.
- This is one of the few Psalms that have a double application: referring both the historical king (e.g. David) and the future King (Christ).
- This Psalm can be separated into two main parts:
 - **What do we do when there seems to be no answer to your prayer (v. 1-21)**
 - **What do we do when breakthrough finally comes (v. 22-31)**
- The beauty of this Psalm is that many of the statement made by David, we see Jesus speaking at the most prominent time of his life, during his passion – the crucifixion.
- This message: **Jesus Speaks!**

I. When there are no answers, I STILL TRUST!

A. Why do I feel forsaken? (Psalms 22:1-5 NIV)

Psalms 22:1-5 – 1) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *Why are you so far from saving me*, from my cries of anguish? 2) My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. *you are enthroned as the Holy One*; you are the one Israel praises. 4) In you our ancestors put their trust; *trusted and you delivered them*. 5) To you they cried out and were saved; in you *they trusted and were put to shame*.

3 things expressed here:

1. Why have you forsaken me?
2. Why are you so far away?
3. Why are there no answers?

Have you ever felt this way?

- Trouble is near, God is far!
- Prayers going up, answers not coming down!

Jesus speaks the same thing (Matt. 27:46)

- Matt. 27:46 – Jesus declared “why have you forsaken me ...
- It was on the cross that Jesus sensed this separation from the Father;
- What we know is the case here is that, “He became sin for us that we might become righteousness of God.” It was the sin that brought separation; it was His blood that bought and brought our reconciliation.

Beauty of this passage:

- King David is prophesying about the coming King in what He would experience for us.
- King Jesus is quoting King David who is His Son but Jesus is His Lord.
- Rejection/Unanswered prayer/God is not responding, whether perceived or real is tough to handle, but there is an answer!

B. Yet I Trust

1. He is enthroned (v. 3)

- He sits above it all, yet He is active and alive!

2. They Trusted (v. 4) “In you our ancestors put their trust...”

- Do not dismiss or underestimate the power of another person's testimony
- Remember the testimonies of old, those who by faith obtained a good report

Heb. 11:4ff

- By faith Abel brought a more acceptable sacrifice, v.4;
- By Faith Enoch was taken, v.5;
- By faith Noah built the ark, v. 7;
- By faith Abraham obeyed when God called, v.8;
- By faith Sarah was able to have a child though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. V. 11
- v. 13 All these people died believing what God had promised.
- v. 32 How much more do I need to say?
- v.33 By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice and received what God had promised them.
- v. 35 ... But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection.
- v. 38 They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.
- v. 39 All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received ALL that God had promised (**every prayer was not answered – in their LIFETIME**). **WHY?**
- v. 40 For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

Heb. 12:1 – Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith...

WE MUST LIVE LIFE WITH ETERNITY IN VIEW...

3. They were Delivered, They were not put to Shame (v. 4, 5)

- Deliverance always come; You don't ever need to be ashamed by putting your trust in the Lord.
- Prophetic/Royal Psalm – Jesus trusted God to raise him from the dead! (**Acts 2:24 NIV – But him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death because it was impossible for death to hold on him.**)

Jesus Speaks – Death couldn't hold him down and the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, and me.

Rom. 8:11 – And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

POINT #1: When there are no answers, I STILL TRUST!

II. **When I am crushed, I STILL TRUST!**

*Psalm 22:6–8 (NIV) – 6) But **I am a worm and not a man**. I am scorned and despised by all! 7) Everyone who sees me mocks me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying, 8) "**Is this the one who relies on the Lord?** Then let the Lord save him! If the Lord loves him so much, let the Lord rescue him!"*

Why am I Despised? What People Say can be crushing!

- This is one of the most picturesque passages referring to Christ in the O.T and Psalms.
- The language is rather bleak – he debases himself to the status of a worm, not a man!
- **Man** – exalted, strong, meant to take dominion.
- **Worm** – worthless, humbled and even crushed.

One of the great passages of the NT is Philippians 2:7 where it says, Jesus made Himself of no reputation; the Lord humbled himself, stooped low and was willing to be crushed. So, it speaks to us of His humiliation, His brokenness, His lowliness.

So, the fact that He calls Himself a worm hints at something not humiliating but possibly hints at something that is redemptive in nature. **Anything God crushes, he intends to redeem for His glory!**

That word WORM in O.T. Hebrew language is “**tola’ath**” pron. “**to lay ha**”. It’s translated “**scarlet**” or “**crimson**.”

For example, in Isaiah, “Though your sins be as scarlet,” **tola’ath**, “they shall be as white as snow.”

Few other times in O.T. Hebrew it’s translated “scarlet” and “worm,” or “Scarlet Worm.” As here in Psalms 22 “I am “**red or a crimson worm**.”

What’s the connection?

Scholars believe the Psalmist is making a direct reference to what is known as a “**scarlet worm**” which is apparently common in the Middle East.

When these insects are crushed the blood that comes out makes a **crimson dye**. The crimson dye is a brilliant color that’s used in making red garments, red fabrics. The **tola’ath** found in Palestine was used in ancient times to make the curtains in the tabernacle in the O.T. from the scarlet worms.

It was discovered that in the life cycle of this scarlet worm, when the worm was ready to give to give birth she would find the trunk of a tree to attach her body securely and permanently to that tree trunk.

The eggs would be laid under her body until they were hatched.

The scarlet worm in the process of giving birth would provide protection for the baby worms until they were ready to get out get out and function on their own, and then the mother worm would die.

How it died was unique, its body attached to the tree would open-up and release the scarlet fluid from its inside and would flow out and cover her body, her babies and the tree.

Scholars believe that when the passage says, I am a worm and “no man” it points to Christ who laid down His life to give us life for the glory of the father.

The scarlet worm died while being attached to a tree, the Son of God was attached to a tree and laid down His life to give us eternal life and to make us children of God.

He was willing to crushed (mocked) for our sakes; he became sin for us so that we could become the righteousness of God.

Why am I Mocked, Scorned?

Sometimes you wonder in life, why your faith is being mocked and scorned.

Well, in a related way, we experience times of crushing for a greater glory to be revealed.

How am I being CRUSHED!

Criticism for believing what you do and the way you do it.

Confusions in life that cause you to question your trusting in God.

Every time someone say...

“Is this the one who relies on the Lord? You respond, “Yes, that’s me, I am the one!”

They said it about Jesus... OT/NT comparison and confirmation

v. 8 - *Is this the one who relies on the Lord? Then let the Lord save him! (People mocked Jesus, Matt. 27:39)*

v. 14 - *My life is pouring out like water*

- It is never easy relying (waiting) on the Lord, but wait anyway!
- It’s never easy to endure ridicule and questionings in the face of people who don’t understand and especially when your **breakthrough is still on hold.**

2 Cor. 4:17 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*

WE MUST LIVE LIFE WITH ETERNITY IN VIEW....

Until It happens ...

Do not stay far from me (v. 11, 19)

- trouble is near, no one else can help (v. 11)
- you are my strength, come quickly to my aid (v. 19)

POINT #2: **When I am crushed, I STILL TRUST!**

III. **When all is said, and done, I WILL PRAISE!**

Psalm 22:24–26 (NIV) - ²⁴For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. ²⁵From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows ²⁶The poor will eat and be satisfied; **those who seek the Lord will praise him—may your hearts live forever!**

- **Your seeking is proper** (it’s the right thing to do)
- **Your seeking is promising** (it’s in your faith which holds great promise)
- **Your seeking will payoff** (you will be rewarded)

Heb. 11:6 “He is the rewarder of the diligent seeker.”

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Psalm 22:28 (NIV) - *For dominion (royal power) belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.*

- All Power belongs to Him.
- He was raised in power.
- Resurrection power lives in us.

Point #3: **When all is said, and done, I WILL PRAISE!**

CONCLUSION:

- **WHAT IS JESUS SAYING TO YOU TODAY**
- **TRUST AND PRAISE!**