

Evening Sermon Outline – January 3, 2021
“David’s Prayer Psalm” Psalm 86

A Prayer of David.

Psalm 86 is called a prayer of David. Commentators say it is a prayer psalm. Meaning not just a psalm including prayer, many of the Psalms do. Psalm 86 is a model prayer, like our Lord Jesus’ Lord’s Prayer, it was meant for others both to sing and to pray!

I. *It begins with David’s humility, poverty, and need*

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¹ Bow down Your ear, O LORD, hear me; For I am poor and needy. Psalm 86:1

1. *It is a prayer first for God’s condescension, God bows His ears to hear us!*
2. *The expression of David’s being “poor and needy” seems out of place for a king:*
 - A. *Perhaps this is a reference to David’s shepherding days? His pre-royalty, being chased by Saul days?*
 - B. *It could also be a reference to being poor in spirit! It would be the case if this was written after David’s sin with Bathsheba / and his murder of her husband Uriah? Or after any sin or failing!*
 - C. *It could be the Son of David, our Lord Jesus speaking through David prophetically –*

⁵⁸ **And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Luke 9:58 (NKJV)**

“In this Psalm Christ the Son of God and Son of Man, one God with the Father, one man with men, to whom we pray as God; prays in the form of a servant. For He prays for us, and He prays in us, and He is prayed to by us. He prays for us as our Priest. He prays in us as our Head. He is prayed to by us as our God.” *Peter Lombard, 1474.*

If referring to David it would mean spiritual poverty – sin. If to Jesus, only physical poverty, as on this earth He was poor.

II. *It continues with a prayer for preservation and salvation because of holiness, faith, and possession -*

² **Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You! Psalm 86:2**

1. *Christ’s holiness meant both sinlessness and total devotion to God, even flawless, perfect holiness*
2. *David’s holiness was far from sinless*
 - A. *But still he belonged to God*
 - B. *And God belonged to him*

III. *It was a cry for mercy and forgiveness -*

³ **Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to You all day long. ⁴ Rejoice the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ⁵ For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. Psalm 86:3-5**

1. *He cries all day long, and the passage could also be translated “daily” he cried to God “daily.” Not only in times of trouble, but daily and all day!*
2. *God rejoices the soul of His servant, like nothing or no one else can!*
3. *As a flower turns toward the sun the Christian lifts His soul to God! For these reasons:*
 - A. *God is good*
 - B. *God is ready to forgive*
 - C. *God is abundant in mercy*

IV. *It is a prayer AGAIN, for God’s attention, because in this troubled filled world our prayers must be without ceasing -*

⁶ **Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; And attend to the voice of my supplications. ⁷ In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, For You will answer me. Psalm 86:6-7**

Like a line of oxygen to a deep-sea diver, our prayers connect us to Heaven, to the safe place and its safe, abundant, needed resources!

V. *It is a prayer of praise, because of Who God Is and What He does -*

⁸ Among the gods *there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works.* ⁹ All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name. ¹⁰ For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God. Psalm 86:8-10

Verses 9, 10.—“All nations shall worship before thee,” because as King of Nations, thou art great, thy sovereignty absolute and incontestable, thy Majesty terrible and unsupportable, thy power universal and irresistible, thy riches vast and inexhaustible, thy dominion boundless and unquestionable; and for the proof of this, “*thou doest wondrous things,*” which all nations admire, and from whence they might easily infer that “*thou art God alone;*” not only none like thee, but none beside thee.—Matthew Henry.

VI. *It is a prayer for Higher Education and personal training -*

¹¹ Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. Psalm 86:11

Have you thought of taking a class in 2021? How about a class taught by the infinite, eternal, God-only wise? The idea here is David will walk in God's truth because God is His Teacher, God is able to work in our hearts!

Verse 11.—“Teach.” The common version of the verb here is too vague, as it fails to bring out the peculiar suitableness of the term to express the kind of teaching here specifically meant. The original meaning of the Hebrew word is *to point out or mark the way.*—J. A. Alexander.

Verse 11.—“Teach me thy way:” “I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart.” Here is the “Via, Veritas, Vita” of the Gospel (John 14:6). “Via tua, Veritas tua, Vita tua, Christus.” Christ is our Way, Truth, and Life, —Christopher Wordsworth.

In knots, to be loosed never; knit my heart to Thee forever.
That I to Thy Name, may bear, fearful love and loving fear.
—Francis Davison.

VII. *It is a prayer of whole-hearted personal praise, because God has been merciful to David, and to me -*

¹² I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore. ¹³ For great is Your mercy toward me, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. Psalm 86:12-13

Consider all the I, my, and me, in these two verses! David's prayer was personal, because God had done great things for Him!

Make David's prayer your prayer!

VIII. *It is a prayer confident in and desiring God's protection*

¹⁴ O God, the proud have risen against me, And a mob of violent men have sought my life, And have not set You before them. ¹⁵ But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth. ¹⁶ Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your maidservant. ¹⁷ Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, Because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me. Psalm 86:14-17

1. *Proud, mob, violent, without God - :14.*
This is the essence of atheism, practical atheism and sinful rebellion!
2. *God is the opposite of such men, and so should be His followers -:15*
3. *In the midst of a world of persecutors, pray for mercy and strength!*
4. *Show me a sign for good, an obvious sign*
 - A. *One that shames enemies*
 - B. *One that glorifies God, making His help and comfort known!*

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