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# Sermon Notes

November 20, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

## Mourning Into Dancing

Psalm 30

### A Song of Dedication

- ❖ Psalm 30 is labeled: *A Psalm of David. A song at the dedication of the temple.*
  - the psalm's title leaves us with a few questions:
    - how come the psalm doesn't mention the Temple?
    - who built the Temple?
  - David reaches back to a time when he was either very sick or in very "deep water" (*cf.* vv 2 & 9)
- ❖ Hmm... there must be a "back story" to this psalm

### David's Bio

- ❖ David's life is dotted with many tough times and rough patches during which he has to run for his life
  - Saul
  - Absalom

- ❖ Over the course of his life, David fights many battles and defeats many enemies
- ❖ A critical moment in David's life that serves as the best parallel to the events, experiences, & emotions in Psalm 30
  - 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21
  - the census
- ❖ What's so bad about taking a census?
  - motive is key
  - is David putting his faith and trust in the size of his army rather than in the Lord?
  - whatever the reason may be, David's decision displeases the Lord
- ❖ A "no-win" situation

### David's Choice

- ❖ David chooses to fall into the hands of the LORD and accept three days of plague
  - David knows God is displeased with sin and that He is angry with the wicked every day (Psalm 7:11)

- but David also knows what he writes in Psalm 30:5, ***His anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime***
- though David's decision is a painful choice, it is a wise choice
- ❖ When the angel of death comes to Jerusalem, the Lord grieves for His people and tells His angel to withdraw
- ❖ The threshing floor of Araunah
  - David buys this and claims it as the place where the future Temple will be built
  - during the remainder of his lifetime, David gathers building materials, helps develop plans and writes Psalm 30 to be used when the Temple is dedicated

### Mercy Triumphs!

- ❖ Psalm 30 is a celebration of God's character
  - more than a personal testimony, Psalm 30 is a corporate call to worship
  - praise God because it is His nature to be gracious
- ❖ ***Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning*** is a statement about the nature and character of God

- ❖ God's mercy triumphs!
- ❖ David celebrates God's goodness by pairing all sorts of "opposites" together (sickness vs. health, anger vs. favor, weeping vs. rejoicing, night vs. morning, God's anger vs. God's favor, a moment vs. a lifetime, feeling secure vs. being dismayed, enjoying God's favor vs. God hiding His face)
- ❖ The great divide between having self-confidence and having God-confidence
- ❖ Giving thanks is a powerful antidote to trusting in ourselves because it reminds us where the true source of every blessing lies
- ❖ Let us sing and not be silent! (*cf.* v. 12)

### Personal Reflection

1. Where/when have you seen God's mercy triumph in your life?
2. Look at the many pairs of "opposites" David includes in Psalm 30. With which of these pairs do you have the most experience? Use those memories as a springboard to give thanksgiving, praise, and worship to God.
3. Do you tend to be more "self-confident" or "God-confident"? What changes need to be made in your life about this?