

Evening Sermon Outline – October 22, 2017

Praying for Justice, Mercy!

Psalm 119:121-128

I. Our ways before men –

1. They can in some sense be righteous –

¹²¹ **AYIN. I have done justice and righteousness; (Psalm 119:121A NKJ)**

If I have treated another person, or other persons fairly, if I live by Jesus' golden rule and - ¹² **"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12 NKJ)**

What the Psalmist is saying here is he has treated men fairly.

2. However, despite this fair treatment, these people have been his oppressors -

Do not leave me to my oppressors. ¹²² Be surety for Your servant for good; Do not let the proud oppress me.

A. These people are wrong to oppress the psalmist, or God's people, however, God is not wrong to allow this. God can use Babylon to punish or discipline Israel –

^{NKJ} **Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god. (Daniel 1:1-2 NKJ)**

B. Ultimately, God used His people like Daniel, within Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged God –

³⁴ **And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?" (Daniel 4:34-35 NKJ)**

C. However, Babylon would ultimately be punished –

⁹ **For behold, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country, And they shall array themselves against her; From there she shall be captured. Their arrows shall be like those of an expert warrior; None shall return in vain. (Jeremiah 50:9 NKJ)**

¹³ **Because of the wrath of the LORD She shall not be inhabited, But she shall be wholly desolate. Everyone who goes by Babylon shall be horrified And hiss at all her plagues. ¹⁴ "Put yourselves in array against Babylon all around, All you who bend the bow; Shoot at her, spare no arrows, For she has sinned against the LORD. (Jeremiah 50:13-14 NKJ)**

3. He (the Psalmist) is seeking God's salvation and His word in this regard -

¹²³ **My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation and Your righteous word.**

II. Our ways before God -

¹²⁴ **Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your statutes. ¹²⁵ I am Your servant; Give me understanding, That I may know Your testimonies.**

1. Before God we need MERCY –

We may be righteous in relation to men, but before God we are all sinners – ¹²⁴ **Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy**

⁹ **What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." (Romans 3:9-12 NKJ)**

2. We need His (God's) teaching - and teach me Your statutes.

3. We need not only teaching, but we need to be given understanding - ¹²⁵ **I am Your servant; Give me understanding, That I may know Your testimonies.**

¹¹ **There is none who understands – Romans 3:11**

It is wise to pry for understanding -

III. Our cries to God -

¹²⁶ **It is time for You to act, O LORD, for they have regarded Your law as void.**

1. *Not that we can tell God what to do, or when to do something, but we can read the signs of the times. When people openly disregard the law of God, if God does not work, nothing we will try will work –*

³ **If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do? (Psalm 11:3 NKJ)**

2. *We have to call upon God, to work, to act, now, or else we will be done –*

Verse 126.—“It is time for thee, LORD, to work.”—Infidelity was never more subtle, more hurtful, more plausible, perhaps more successful, than in the day in which we live. It has left the low grounds of vulgarity, and coarseness and ribaldry, and entrenched itself upon the lofty heights of criticism, philology, and even science itself. It pervades to a fearful extent our popular literature; it has invested itself with the charms of poetry, to throw its spell over the public mind; it has endeavoured to enweave itself with science; and he must be little acquainted with the state of opinion in this land, who does not know that it is espoused by a large portion of the cultivated mind of this generation. “It is time for thee, Lord, to work.”—*John Angell James, 1785–1859.*

IV. Our choice of God's commands -

¹²⁷ **Therefore I love Your commandments More than gold, yes, than fine gold! (Psalm 119:127 NKJ)**

The world goes one way, against God's law, we must love it all the more for its being hated by a sin filled world!



V. Our complete confidence in God's commands, should be paired with a hatred of every false way -

¹²⁸ **Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way (Psalm 119:128 NKJ)**

1. *We live in a day and age which is FULL of False ways –*

¹³ **And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. ¹⁵ "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."**

(Revelation 16:13-15 NKJ)

Recently, I heard just part of a sermon where the preacher was explaining these verses –

The unclean spirits / demons he said are like frogs, in that they are like the frogs in Egypt during the plague –

³ **"So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. (Exodus 8:3 NKJ)**

The point is, as the frogs were everywhere, so shall these unclean spirits out of the mouth of the dragon, and the mouth of false prophet be EVERYWHERE!

2. *What comes from the mouth of the Dragon – Satan --- LIES!*

3. *How do we know the true from the false?*

God's precepts, God's truth the Bible is right and true --- anything that goes against it is FALSE

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