

A Righteous Man's Prayer (Psalm 17)

- Psalm 17 may fit into a number of genres of the psalms i.e. a lament
- The psalmist is in danger and crying out for God to deliver him from his enemies
- While there is this element, Psalm 17 also teaches us powerfully about prayer
- It is a model prayer: urgent, perceptive, moving, but mostly because of its style
- It is what some call argumentative prayer. David argues his case before God

I. The Innocence of the Psalmist

- David appeals to God to act swiftly or decisively on his behalf (v7, v8, v13)
- What is striking, though, is that David pleads his innocence before the living God
- This is His first argument (vv1-5). He is not timorous, in fact he leaves us uneasy
- David argues that his prayer rises from lips free of deceit (v.1) also vv 3-5
- But David is claiming innocence of what his accusers are accusing him of
- But there is an innocence that comes with living a righteous life in God/ Christ
- a) Are we being obedient because of the grace of God in our lives? (Lk 6: 46)
- b) Are we being selfish: one way of curing this is praying for the needs of others
- c) Are we neglecting some important duty, the sin of neglect is a serious sin
- d) Is there a wrong we should first make right: maybe our sins of commission
- e) Are our priorities in order David lays out his priorities in vv3-5

II. God's Love

- The 2nd of David's arguments (why God should answer his prayer) are in v 6-8
- Vs 7 is the heart of the psalm as David appeals to God for his covenant love
- This "hesed" love is the same love by which God enters into relationship with us
- It's the love he showed Abraham, Moses, David & now us who believe in Christ

III The Dangers Involved

- In vv.10-12 David speaks specifically about his enemies that are threatening him
- Three things about his enemies 1st "They close their hearts to pity" (10)
- 2nd "with their mouths they speak arrogantly"
- 3rd They have now surrounded our steps; they set their eyes 2 cast us 2 –ground

IV. A Final Appeal

- 1st part of Psalm 17 David speaks of his innocence while describing his enemies
- vv 13-15 He reverses the order, he describes his enemies & claims his innocence