

Evening Sermon Outline – February 17, 2019

“Praying and more Praying” - Psalm 17

I. Prayers, pleas for just cause and justice –

A Prayer of David. <sup>1</sup> Hear a just cause, O LORD, Attend to my cry; Give ear to my prayer *which is not from deceitful lips.* <sup>2</sup> Let my vindication come from Your presence; Let Your eyes look on the things that are upright. Psalm 17:1-2

1. This Psalm is called a prayer of David –

A Prayer of David. “David would not have been a man after God’s own heart, if he had not been a man of prayer.” C.H. Spurgeon

2. What is immediately obvious about this Psalm / Prayer is the fervency of David’s prayer, He calls God to “Hear” He calls his prayer “my cry” again he says, “Give ear”

3. What the prayer about is a “just cause” “vindication”

4. His lips are not deceitful, he knows God would know if he were lying, you cannot deceive God!

5. When he says, let your eyes look on things that are upright, he is asking for favor from God for himself, for his people, God’s people vs the wicked, now, not just in Heaven.

II. Prayers from a man who knows God and knows he is known by God –

<sup>3</sup> You have tested my heart; You have visited *me* in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. <sup>4</sup>Concerning the works of men, By the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer. <sup>5</sup> Uphold my steps in Your paths, *That* my footsteps may not slip. Psalm 17:3-5

1. God is a God who tests and tries the hearts of His people, he tested David, He will test us –

<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:2-5

A. David acknowledges God’s righteous testing. Here he is making clear he is not blaming God for his trials.

B. He knows God is in control of those who threaten him.

2. God’s Word kept David from wrong ways - **By the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer.**

Not only does David not blame God, but he rather credits God’s Word!

3. After crediting God’s Word, he prays for God’s continued upholding -

<sup>5</sup> Uphold my steps in Your paths, *That* my footsteps may not slip.

III. Prayers for a hearing –

<sup>6</sup> I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, *and* hear my speech.

This is repetitive, but showing heart, not rote, Jesus preached against rote, meaningless repetition in prayers –

<sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Matthew 6:7

IV. Prayers for display of marvelous loving deliverance – Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust *in* You From those who rise up *against* them. Psalm 17:7

1. Show, make know, display your lovingkindness, by Your Right hand, means action!

2. This means victory over enemies, like in Exodus, the Egyptians drowned in the Red Sea –

<sup>6</sup> “Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. Exodus 15:6

V. *Prayers for protection –*

<sup>8</sup> Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings, <sup>9</sup> From the wicked who oppress me, *From* my deadly enemies who surround me. Psalm 17:8-9

1. *Apple of Your eye – the pupil, a part we protect!*
2. *Shadow of your wings, as a hen protects her chicks.*

VI. *Prayers describing the enemies and their threatening actions –*

<sup>10</sup> They have closed up their fat *hearts*; With their mouths they speak proudly. <sup>11</sup> They have now surrounded us in our steps; They have set their eyes, crouching down to the earth, <sup>12</sup> As a lion is eager to tear his prey, And like a young lion lurking in secret places. Psalm 17:10-12

1. - closed up their fat *hearts* - *Their hearts are full of many things, but closed, because compassion is not one of those things*
2. *Big mouthed braggards*
3. *Surrounded, threatened, they are predators, like lions, Satan is described in this way –*

... your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8

VII. *Prayers for Divine action, against powerful and prosperous in this world; enemies –*

Arise, O LORD, Confront him, cast him down; Deliver my life from the wicked with Your sword, <sup>14</sup> With Your hand from men, O LORD, From men of the world *who have* their portion in *this* life, And whose belly You fill with Your hidden treasure. They are satisfied with children, And leave the rest of their *possession* for their babes.

1. *David asks God to take violent action against his enemies*
  - A. *With His sword, a weapon, God's Word –*

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword Hebrews 4:12

<sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And

He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS Revelation 19:15-16

B. *His (God's) hand – meaning His power*

2. *These people are described –*

- **From men of the world *who have* their portion in *this* life, Meaning here and now and NOT in Heaven!**
- **And whose belly You fill with Your hidden treasure.**

**They are satisfied with children,**

**And leave the rest of their *possession* for their babes.**

*The wicked feast and do increase!*

VIII. *Prayers that are personal, a person who is different -*

<sup>15</sup> **As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.**

1. *The ungodly have their portion in this life, full bellies and many children – David has seeing God's face in righteousness as his goal, his Heaven, His great desire!*

2. *He desired to awake in the likeness of God –*

*Being renewed in God's image is his great goal and desire –*

A. *We were originally created in God's image –*

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis :1:26-27

B. *That image is distorted by sin, but can be restored by Christ and God's Holy Spirit, this is the desire of those who love and know God -*

<sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24

<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10