

Evening Sermon Outline – March 8, 2020
“The Mess Made by Sin” Psalm 55

I. Sin makes a mess, even for God’s people,
especially for Christ -

1. David’s Prayer / Complaint during a troublesome time -

¹ Give ear to my prayer, O God, And do not hide Yourself from my supplication. ² Attend to me, and hear me; I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily, ³ Because of the voice of the enemy, Because of the oppression of the wicked; For they bring down trouble upon me, And in wrath they hate me. ⁴ My heart is severely pained within me, And the terrors of death have fallen upon me. ⁵ Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, And horror has overwhelmed me. ⁶ So I said, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. ⁷ Indeed, I would wander far off, And remain in the wilderness. ⁸ I would hasten my escape From the windy storm and tempest.” Psalm 55:1-8

1. Note how many times David asks God just to here him, FOUR TIMES before he says anything else - :1-2 Why?

A. His sin did not deserve God’s hearing!

B. Yet, he still trusts in God’s grace that is greater than all sin -

²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, Romans 5:20 (NKJV)

C. His pain makes him complain, but he is not blaming God!

2. His issue is enemies, an enemy, and oppression – :3-4

A. Absalom, his own son, others who would follow him in rebellion –

B. There had to be great pain in the rebellion of a son:

- It was likely caused (or at least contributed to) by David’s own failures, both as a man and a father
- Absalom’s rebellion likely also against God!

C. Such a horrible pain this was the goal was just to escape –

Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. :6
A dove is a mourning, crying bird, yet David envies its ability, to fly away, to escape this SIN-FILLED World!

“Stop the world, I want to get off, this is too weird for me!”
Randy Stonehill

D. To the wilderness, from the storm - :7-8

Verse 8.—“I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.” There was a windy storm and tempest without, and which is worse, a tumult and combustion within in his thoughts. A man may escape from external confusions, but how shall he fly from himself? If he be out of the reach of all the blood-suckers on earth, and all the furies in hell, yet be dogged and haunted with his own turbulent, ungovernable cogitations, he needs no other tormentors. This holy man was thus doubly distressed, a storm abroad and an earthquake at home rendered his condition most dolorous; but for both he hath εν μεγα; he goes not about with the foxes of this world to relieve himself with subtle stratagems and wiles, by carnal shifts and policies, a vanity tossed to and fro by them that seek death. No, his one great refuge is to get aloft, to ascend to God.—Thomas Sharp.

E. Christ had to endure all the trouble in this world, plus the cross because of our sin!

II. Enemies of God and His people are enemies of society in general -

⁹ Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues, For I have seen violence and strife in the city. ¹⁰ Day and night they go around it on its walls; Iniquity and trouble are also in the midst of it. ¹¹ Destruction is in its midst; Oppression and deceit do not depart from its streets. Psalm 55:9-11

1. David’s mistakes as a king impact his kingdom, his sin with Bathsheba, his murder of Uriah had multiplying consequences...
2. My sins hurt the church, so do others, maybe less
3. Our sins impact our families –

This was definitely the case with David!

III. David's good friend betrays him; Christ is betrayed by Judas -¹² For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. ¹³ But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. ¹⁴ We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng. Psalm 55:12-14

1. This is likely a reference to Ahithophel, who joined with Absalom against David.
 - A. God-wise this was part of the consequence of David's sin!
 - B. Man to man, Ahithophel was extremely wrong to side against David –
 - C. David was his friend –
- Verse 12.—“Then I would have hid myself from him.” It is generally easy to get out of the way of an avowed enemy, but how can one be on his guard against a treacherous friend?—A. R. Fausset
- D. Absalom was not his friend
 - E. Absalom was not God's choice
 - F. Absalom did not heed Ahithophel's counsel
 - G. Ahithophel commits suicide
2. Ahithophel becomes a type of Judas –

IV. David is not wrong to pray against these enemies -
¹⁵ Let death seize them; Let them go down alive into hell, For wickedness is in their dwellings and among them. Psalm 55:15

1. For death
2. For eternal punishment in Hell –

Verse 15.—“Let death seize upon them” by divine warrant, and let them go quick into hell; let them be dead and buried, and damned in a moment; for wickedness is wherever they are, it is in the midst of them. The souls of impenitent sinners go down quick, or alive, into hell; for they have a perfect sense of their miseries, and shall therefore live still, that they may be still miserable. This prayer is a prophecy of the utter, the final, the everlasting ruin of all those who, whether secretly or openly, oppose and rebel against the Lord's Messiah.—Matthew Henry.

V. David is a man of prayer / distinguished by prayer -

¹⁶ As for me, I will call upon God, And the LORD shall save me. ¹⁷ Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice. ¹⁸ He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, For there were many against me. Psalm 55:16-18

1. He knows God and prays to Him, his enemies don't!
2. God hears him!
3. He has been redeemed -

Verse 18.—“He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle.” In the midst of war the Lord can keep a man as safe as in the time of peace, and in extreme perils preserve him from danger. He that depends upon God in the time of trouble, albeit he had an host against him, yet hath he more with him when God is with him, than can be against him.—David Dickson.

VI. The end of God's and David's enemies -

¹⁹ God will hear, and afflict them, Even He who abides from of old Because they do not change, Therefore they do not fear God. ²⁰ He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him; He has broken his covenant. ²¹ The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, But war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords. ²² Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved. ²³ But You, O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction; Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; But I will trust in You. Psalm 55:19-23

1. David did not take vengeance on his enemies but trusted God to do the job - :19
2. They are punished for their lack of repentance, their continuing in sin - :19
3. Ahithophel is described again:
 - A. He was an enemy to those who were not his
 - B. He broke covenant promises / relationships - :20
 - C. He was a smooth talker / but his heart was not like his words - :21
4. The righteous are protected by God - :22
5. But not the deceitful man - :23

Arnold Brevick