

Evening Sermon Outline – March 15, 2020
“Stuck in the Middle with God!” Psalm 56

“To the Chief Musician. Set to “The Silent Dove in Distant Lands.” a Michtam of David When the Philistines Captured Him in Gath.

“This Psalm’s Setting”

¹⁰ Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. ¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, “Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands’?”

¹² Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. ¹³ So he changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard. ¹⁴ Then Achish said to his servants, “Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? ¹⁵ Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?” 1 Samuel 21:10–15 (NKJV)

David’s prayer in this situation –

I. A prayer for mercy, protection -

¹ Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me. ² My enemies would hound me all day, For there are many who fight against me, O Most High. Psalm 56:1-2

1. *Saul had chased David right into home town of his defeated foe Goliath. Out of the frying pan into the fire!*
2. *If the song - Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands’?” angered Saul, how angry would the sung about Philistines being killed be?*
3. *How angry would Goliath’s family and friends be?*
4. *They would swallow him up because they are EVERYWHERE! David is just a single bite for them is his meaning!*
5. *They hound him, like hound dogs ...*
6. *Many fight against David, constantly, daily, all day ...*

Verse 1.—“He fighting daily.” There is no morning on which we can arise and go forth into the world, and say, “No enemy will come out against me to-day.” There is no night in which we can retire from that world, and think to find safety in the solitude of our own chambers, and say, “No evil can enter here.”—*Barton Bouchier, in “Manna in the Heart,” 1855.*

7. These are the reasons for David’s prayer for mercy!

II. David’s fear was conquered by his faith

³ Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. ⁴ In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me? Psalm 56:3-4

1. *David had faith to defeat Goliath*
2. *He is afraid because now:*
 - A. *Saul’s army which should be grateful is after him!*
 - B. *Goliath’s army which should have been conquered, has him in its sights!*

Verse 3.—“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.” There is nothing like faith to help at a pinch; faith dissolves doubts as the sun drives away the mists. And that you may not be put out, know that your time for believing always is. There are times when some graces may be out of use, but there is no time wherein faith can be said to be so. Wherefore faith must be always in exercise. Faith is the eye, is the mouth, is the hand, and one of these is of use all the day long. Faith is to see, to receive, to work, or to eat; and a Christian should be seeing or receiving, or working, or feeding all day long. Let it rain, let it blow, let it thunder, let it lighten, a Christian must still believe. “At what time,” said the good man, “I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”—*John Bunyan.*

Verse 3.—“What time,” etc. Literally, “What day.” As “Man daily oppresseth me” (ver. 1), so “Every day, when I am afraid, I trust in thee.”—*A. R. Fausset.*

III. What David's enemies do:

⁵ All day they twist my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil.
⁶ They gather together, They hide, they mark my steps, When they lie in wait for my life. Psalm 56:5-6

1. They twisted David's words
- A. They would have to because David was faithful to Saul, he gladly served the king and Israel...
- B. Yet, they had to make him out to be a trader

2. All their thoughts were against me for evil –

Notice it is "their" plural, not just Saul who is against David, this shows us that the twisting David's words campaign accomplished its purpose!

How many lies had to be told to turn people against a national hero?

3. Note David's enemies mark his steps, this is similar to what David says about God is verse :8 but also totally different, David's enemies mark his steps because they want to kill him! God watches our steps to protect, to test and help us!

IV. What is due David's enemies?

⁷ Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God!

There would be a judgment! Saul would be defeated, he eventually committed suicide!

V. What David is certain of:

1. God knew where he was, at all times –You number my wanderings;... Psalm 56:8 A
2. God cared deeply about David's trials

⁸ You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book? Psalm 56:8 B

Verse 8.—"Put thou my tears in thy bottle." Among other things in the collection of Mr. Abbott, of Cairo, he had a lachrymatory, or

tear bottle, which had been found in a tomb at Thebes. This interested me very much. The custom in old times was, when a person was ill, or in great distress, for his friends to go to see him, and take with them a tear bottle. Then, as the tears rolled down the cheeks of the sufferer, they were caught in these bottles, sealed up, and preserved as a memorial of the event. This is what David referred to in Psalm 56:8.

John Gadsby

3. God was on his side and would eventually fight for him -

⁹ When I cry out to You, Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me. Psalm 56:9

VI. David's determination –

1. To praise God and His word -

¹⁰ In God (I will praise His word), In the LORD (I will praise His word), Psalm 56:10

Whether God brings hardship, or the LORD brings mercy, David will praise Him and His word!

2. To trust God in the worst of circumstances -

¹¹ In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? Psalm 56:11

3. To keep his vows he had made to God -

¹² Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You, Psalm 56:12

VII. The reason for David's determination, God's deliverance

¹³ For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the light of the living? Psalm 56:13

1. God's deliverance of David in the past made him trust God for the future –
2. David kept his walk with God

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