

Evening Sermon Outline – March 8, 2020
“Betrayed by Strangers; Saved by God!” Psalm 54

We are told exactly what this Psalm is about in its Biblical title -

To the Chief Musician. With Stringed Instruments. A Contemplation of David When the Ziphites Went and Said to Saul, “Is David Not Hiding with Us?”

¹⁹ Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which *is* on the south of Jeshimon? ²⁰ Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part *shall be* to deliver him into the king’s hand.” 1 Samuel 23:19–20 (NKJV)

26 Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?” 1 Samuel 26:1 (NKJV)

The first time Saul was called away before he could catch David.

The second time David entered Saul’s camp and had opportunity to kill Saul while he and his army were sleeping, but David spared Saul!

I. A prayer for salvation -

¹ Save me, O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your strength.

² Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth. Psalm 54:1-2

1. *When we think of salvation we typically think of salvation from sin, death and Hell, salvation that happens at the end of life ...*

This is a prayer primarily for temporal salvation!

2. *We can pray such prayers*
3. *Note David did not receive immediate full salvation in answer to this / these prayers*
 - A. *There were two betrayals by the Ziphites*
 - B. *The second of these also resulted in the SECOND time David spared Saul’s life*

C. *David was discouraged, he was not confident Saul would not prevail over him –*

27 And David said in his heart, “Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. *There is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.” 1 Samuel 27:1 (NKJV)

Yet, he prayed for salvation about this situation and he was both protected in the present and made king finally...

D. *We pray for a spiritual / moral salvation and Christ prays with us –*

²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:24–25 (NKJV)

2. He prays for vindication –

Not only is his body saved but his reputation

II. A prayer against strangers and oppressors -

³ For strangers have risen up against me, and oppressors have sought after my life; They have not set God before them.

1. *Saul and his minions are the oppressors, Saul had a nation behind him, and his nation’s army*
2. *Sought David’s life –*

Even to the wilderness of Ziph, a REMOTE place, Israel wise!

3. *Strangers? The Ziphites, they did not know David ... Yet they were of David’s own tribe - Judah*
Strangers? The Amalekites – 1 Samuel 27:8

I think the idea was that though they were those who were of David’s own tribe, THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN LOYALTY... Yet they were like strangers! They were like Amalekites!

III. David's final Confidence -

1. His confidence is in God –

⁴ Behold, God is my helper;... Psalm 54:4a

A. The LORD / God would be with David's friends -
The Lord is with those who uphold my life. Psalm 54:4b

B. He (the LORD / God) would be against David's enemies -

⁵ He will repay my enemies for their evil. Cut them off in Your truth.
Psalm 54:5

2. His sacrifice and praise are to God -

⁶ I will freely sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good. ⁷ For He has delivered me out of all trouble; And my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies. Psalm 54:6-7

A. Freely sacrificing = sparing no expense, giving his all for the service and worship of God!

What is said here is similar to what Paul encourages us to in Romans 12 –

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

B. Praising God's Name, Praising God for Who God is –

¹ O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! Psalm 8:1 (NKJV)

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, **Hallowed be Your name.** Matthew 6:9 (NKJV)

What is a hallowed Name?

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV)

C. For He has delivered me --- what He / God has done!

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing thro' Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

To God be the glory, the victory is won;
Our praise to the Savior has only begun;
In heaven's radiant splendor we'll join with the throng
And praise Him forever in jubilant song.

Fanny Crosby

IV. Application –

1. Pray without ceasing, even in difficult circumstances
2. Trust in a God Who delivers
3. Praise God for deliverance

Arnold Brevick