

Evening Sermon Outline – May 19, 2019

“Lifted Up to God” Psalm 25

Verse 1.—“Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.” A godly man prays as a builder builds. Now a builder first layeth a foundation, and because he cannot finish in one day, he comes the second day, and finds the frame standing that he made the first day, and then he adds a second day’s work; and then he comes a third day and finds his two former days’ work standing; then he proceeds to a third day’s work, and makes walls to it, and so he goes on till his building be finished. So prayer is the building of the soul till it reach up to heaven; therefore a godly heart prays, and reacheth higher and higher in prayer, till at last his prayers reach up to God.—*William Fenner*.

“Step by step, You lead me, and I will follow You all of my days...”
Rich Mullins

I. The LORD is always up, any approach of Him on our part requires lifting -

A Psalm of David. ¹Unto You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. Psalm 25:1
This is David’s way of saying He is praying, seeking God!

Verse 1.—“I lift up my soul, alluding to the sacrifices, which were wont to be *lifted up*. Hence prayers not answered, not accepted, are said to be stopped from ascending. Lam. 3:44. When you met with such expressions in the Old Testament concerning prayer, you must still understand them to be allusions to the sacrifices, because the sacrifices were *lifted up* and did ascend.—*Joseph Caryl*.

1. If sacrifices, ultimately Christ –

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

... For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7

2. When Christ is lifted, He draws -³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die. John 12:32-33

II. David’s prayer here is a prayer of faith - ² O my God, I trust in You; Psalm 25:2

Though we lift our souls to God in prayer, we need Him to actually raise us ...

III. In Himself, David had, as we all do, good reason to be ashamed

**Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me.
³ Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause. Psalm 25:3**

David had “enemies” they would SHAME David for the wrong reasons...

IV. David prays for what we should all pray for:

1. Showing -⁴ Show me Your ways, O LORD; Psalm 25:4

2. Teaching - Teach me Your paths. Psalm 25:4

3. Leading -⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, Psalm 25:5

* Why does he pray such things? Because he knows God -
For You are the God of my salvation; ... Psalm 25:5

• How does David pray such things? **On You I wait all the day. Psalm 25:5**

Isaiah speaks of rewards given to those who wait upon the LORD –
³¹ **But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31**

V. Lifting up to God means losing the weight of SIN –

¹² Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us *Hebrews 12:1*

1. *David would have God remember mercy -*
⁶ Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old. Psalm 25:6

2. *He would have God forget (not remember) his sins -*
⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; Psalm 25:7

3. *He would have God remember him according to mercy*
According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD. Psalm 25:7

VI. *In the middle of his prayer, David includes praise -*

1. *David praises God for what He is: good and upright -*
⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; Psalm 25:8

2. *David praises God for what He does, He teaches humble sinners - Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.* ⁹ The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. Psalm 25:8-9

VII. *With His praise, David rejoices in and teaches all about God's paths and ways -*

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. Psalm 25:10

This is what we find in Scripture:

1. *Mercy - "It is the great design of the Scripture to represent God as merciful. This is the loadstone (magnet) to draw sinners to Him." Thomas Watson*

2. *Truth - If lies were lions, we would all be eaten by now! Truth is rare, it is why few find the right path -*
¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13-14

3. *Yet Scripture lights our way -* ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

VIII. *Yet, lifting up to God means losing the GREAT WEIGHT of sin -*

¹¹ For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great. Psalm 25:11

Here it seems David was about to go up, up to Heaven in His beautiful balloon of praising God, when He realized his weight of sin was still way too MUCH! The rest of the Psalm could be thought of as unloading the weight of sin words -

1. *Fear of the LORD words -*

¹² Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. ¹³ He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth. ¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

2. *Looking to the LORD (for help) words -*

¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

3. *Begging and pleading words -*

¹⁶ Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted. ¹⁷ The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses! ¹⁸ Look on my affliction and my pain, And forgive all my sins. ¹⁹ Consider my enemies, for they are many; And they hate me with cruel hatred. ²⁰ Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. ²¹ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You. ²² Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all their troubles!

Jesus taught this begging -

⁹ Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18:9-14

Arnold Breivick