

Evening Sermon Outline – May 2, 2021

“King David’s Vows!” Psalm 101

I. A singing king, the sweet Psalmist of Israel –

A Psalm of David. <sup>1</sup> I will sing... Psalm 101:1

... And the sweet psalmist of Israel: 2 Samuel 23:1

II. The themes of this Psalm, mercy and justice -

I will sing of mercy and justice; To You, O LORD, I will sing praises.

Psalm 101:1

This song of the sweet singer of Israel is peculiar to earth; they do not sing of “judgment” in heaven, for there is no sin there; they do not sing of “mercy” in hell, for there is no propitiation for sin there. Time was when the song was not heard even on earth; for in Paradise man walked in innocence, and walking in innocence he walked in the light of his Father’s face.—Hugh Stowell, 1856.

All of David’s Psalms praise God, he sings praises almost constantly, but this Psalm is a public vow to God regarding how he intends to act / rule as king of Israel!

9 Now David said, “Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” 2 Samuel 9:1

Saul had been an enemy to David, Saul’s son Jonathan was his best friend, which relationship would carry more weight in David’s rule and in his relationship to the house of his predecessor? Jonathan’s friendship outweighed Saul’s hatred and so mercy outdid justice!

III. A ruler must first rule himself –

The same applies to Pastors, and ruling elders in churches, and to husbands who are heads of households and of course to all politicians

–

1. He aims for a perfect private life –

<sup>2</sup> I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. Psalm 101:2 (NKJV)

Verse 2.—“Within my house.” It is easier for most men to walk with a perfect heart in the church, or even in the world, than in their own families. How many are as meek as lambs among others, when at home they are wasps or tigers.—Adam Clarke.

2. He pledges to guard himself in regard to temptation -

<sup>3</sup> I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; Psalm 101:3 A

3. He expresses hatred for the work of those who fall away (from the LORD) which would have included Saul, who persecuted him -

I hate the work of those who fall away; Psalm 101:3 B

4. He expresses confidence in his ability to resist evil -

It shall not cling to me. Psalm 101:3 C

Verse 3.—“It shall not cleave to me.” A wicked plan or purpose is thus represented as having a tendency to fasten itself on a man, or to “stick to him”—as pitch or wax, or a burr does.—Albert Barnes.

This was almost certainly written before his fall with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah, which shows us that the best of us can fall –

<sup>12</sup> Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)

IV. As a ruler David was careful and particular about his associates –

1. This could be an expression about his own heart or others, he knew perverse hearted people would not want to be with him.

<sup>4</sup> A perverse heart shall depart from me; ... Psalm 101:4 A

2. Here is something like a warning to the ungodly, do not bother, I will not take a bribe, I will not allow corruption in my courts -

... I will not know wickedness. Psalm 101:4

V. *As a ruler David made it clear whom he would punish -*

<sup>5</sup> **Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure. Psalm 101:5**

<sup>7</sup> **He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.** <sup>8</sup> **Early I will destroy all the wicked of the land, That I may cut off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD. Psalm 101;7-8 (NKJV)**

1. *:5 Slanderers, destroyed, these are those who would come to the king (David) with a false report –*

<sup>16</sup> **“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Exodus 20:16 (NKJV)**

2. *:8 – “Early”, he would make it his goal to destroy all the wicked of the land ... this is the job of the king, and David is telling everyone he has no intention of procrastination –*

3. *:8 “all the wicked” “all the evil doers” his intention is to do a thorough job of eliminating evil -*

Verses 5–8.—Perfect, as prophetic of Christ, is the delineation of His associates and disciples. The perverse; the evil-doers; the slanderers, and the proud found no fellowship with Him. There were no common principles: no bond of union between them. There was “a gulf” interposed, as in the parable, which they could not pass; and what they saw of Christ, they beheld only from a distance. Nor even now, as then, can “the deceitful” dwell in Christ’s “house”—his holy temple; nor the man of “lies be established” by his love and favor. They must renounce their vices before they can be admitted to His covenant; or, however they may claim communion with *Him*, He in return can have no sympathy with them.—*William Hill Tucker.*

Verse 8.—“*That I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the Lord.*” As the kingdom of David was only a faint image of the kingdom of Christ, we ought to set Christ before our view; who, although He may bear with many hypocrites, yet as He will be the judge of the

world, will at length call them all to an account, and separate the sheep from the goats. And if it seems to us that He tarries too long, we should think of that morning which will suddenly dawn, that all filthiness being purged away, true purity may shine forth.

—*John Calvin.*

4. *Yet, the battle with evil always starts with our own hearts, even for kings, pastors and others in leadership positions -*

Verse 8.—The holy vow “*to destroy all the wicked of the land,*” and to “*cut off all wicked doers from the city of the Lord,*” must begin at our own hearts as his sanctuary, the temple of the Holy Ghost.

—*Alfred Edersheim.*

VI. *He also made it clear who he would promote -*

<sup>6</sup> **My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me. Psalm 101:6 (NKJV)**

1. *His intention is to look for such “faithful” people, they are usually not self-promoters!*

2. *They will dwell with David! He desires their influence...*

3. *They will be his servants, not like slaves, but his cabinet: they will be the leaders in his kingdom, and so Christ makes “Christians” godly people His kings and priests –*

<sup>6</sup> **and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:6**

A. *Morality is the first qualification for public service!*

B. *Morality is not political skill.*

C. *Morality is not even positional skill or experience.*

D. *True morality is not usually equivalent to popularity –*

<sup>26</sup> **Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets. Luke 6:26**

E. *Yet, morality is the first qualification for governance, not sinless-perfection, only Christ has that, but a desire to do what is right and good!*

*Arnold Brewick*