

Sunday Night Message

September 1, 2013

Psalm 39

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 39

Introduction

This psalm, like the preceding Psalm 38, is also a penitential psalm. It was given to a man named Jeduthan, who is said to be the chief musician. Jeduthan is mentioned by name in introductory remarks of two other psalms (Psalms 62 and 77). Jeduthan was there when the ark of God was returned from the house of Obededom. (1 Chronicles 16:37 – 43). He is also mentioned in 1 Chronicles 25:1 – 8 in reference to their musical ministry. He and the other men mentioned, Asaph and Heman, are said to “prophesy with harps, to give thanks and praise to the Lord”. This psalm, though it was very somber, was set to music, and was used in public worship.

I David Determines to Keep Silent (vs. 1 – 2)

David was trying to be careful. He was definitely experiencing a serious trial that seemed to be a result of his sin. He didn’t want to open his mouth and say the wrong thing. It is very easy to sin with our tongues, especially when we under a lot of pressure.

Here, in context, it seems that David was keeping silent “before the wicked” who may have been blaspheming God because of the trial David was going through.

Sometimes silence is not the answer:

“When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.”
(Psalms 32:3)

Sometimes you just need to talk about it, and the best place to go is to the Lord.

II David is Driven to Speak (vs. 3 - 6)

v. 2 states that David was stirred to speak:

He doesn't answer his critics, or even argue or complain to the Lord, but he does pray.

Notice it says that David's heart was hot within him, which reminds of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus who met with the Lord after His resurrection without realizing it at first that it was Jesus. The Scripture says that their hearts burned within them when the Lord opened unto them the Scriptures.

Jeremiah experienced the same kind of compulsion to speak, when he initially determined not to say anything.

"O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him." (Jeremiah 20:7-10)

When Davis does finally speak, he speaks to the Lord about the brevity of life:

Turn to Psalm 90:1 - 12

"O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good." (Job 7:7)

"Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away." (Psalms 144:4)

The word "vanity" means emptiness, or nothingness.

Notice what verse 6 says about riches and compare it to what Solomon said in the Book of Ecclesiastes:

"Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me. And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity. Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun. For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil." (Ecclesiastes 2:18-21)

Sometimes the trials of this life serve to remind us of that fact that nothing in this life is forever. Sometimes we get too consumed with the temporal, and a trial will cause us to look to what really matters - eternity.

Turn also to Luke 12:16 – 21 to see what Jesus said about the subject of riches.

David was certainly going through a severe trial here on earth, but as far as eternity was concerned, everything was going to be OK.

Why? Because David trusted the Lord.

III David Declares His Trust in the Lord (vs. 7 – 9)

David decides that he doesn't want to wait anymore here on this earth – he wants to be with God now, or he wants to be delivered.

IV David Desires the Lord for Mercy (vs. 10 – 13)

David asks the Lord to make things right. He asks the Lord to remove the trial.

It is OK to ask the Lord to remove the trial, but it is more important to ask the Lord for grace through the trial.

Paul asked the Lord to remove a trial, but instead received the grace of God:

"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)