

LESSONS FROM PSALMS THIRTY-EIGHT

Scripture: Psalm 38:1-22

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. This is a Psalm of David.
 - B. The exact time we cannot tell, but it was after David's sins of adultery and murder and before he was restored.
- I. LEARN THAT GOD'S OWN PEOPLE CAN SO SIN AS TO BRING GOD'S WRATH DOWN UPON THEMSELVES. vs. 1-4,5, 16, 18
- A. In these verses David speaks of his SINS, his INIQUITY, his FOOLISHNESS, his FOOT SLIPPING, his INIQUITY, and his SIN.
 - B. He also speaks of God's WRATH, God's HOT DISPLEASURE, God's ANGER
 - C. David makes it clear that he does not blame God for all his problems and hurt.
 1. v.3 "there is no rest in my bones BECAUSE of my sins."
 2. v.4 "Mine iniquities are gone over my head... they are too heavy to bear."
 3. v.5 "My wounds stink and are corrupt BECAUSE OF MY FOOLISHNESS."
 - D. David accepted God's dealing with him as justified on God's part. (Quite different from most people in our day)
- II. LEARN HOW TERRIBLE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN CAN BE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD. vs. 2-10
- A. Refers to all the chastisement of God..."like arrows that stick fast in me." v.2
 - B. "no soundness in my flesh...no rest in my bones..." v.3
 - C. "my wounds stink and are corrupt..." v.5
 - D. "I am troubled...I am bowed down greatly...I go mourning all the day long." v.6
 - E. "loins filled with a loathsome disease...no soundness in my flesh." v.7
 - F. "I am feeble ...broken...groaning because of troubled heart." v.8
 - G. "...my heart panteth...strength faileth...eyes cannot see.." v.10
 - H. We cannot know all that David went through—BUT there is enough to 'speak loudly of God's strong displeasure with sin in the life of a child of God.
- III. LEARN HOW HEARTLESS AND UNCARING PEOPLE CAN BE TOWARD A WAYWARD, SUFFERING CHILD OF GOD. vs. 11,12;16;19;20
- A. Lovers, friends, and kinsmen stand afar off. v.11
 1. Those who should step in and help many times treat a fallen brother like trash...like he has the plague.
 2. Someone has said, "Christians are the only ones who shoot their wounded."
 - B. Those who are enemies seek to add to my hurt. v.12
 - C. Some rejoice over me—they magnify themselves against me...(gloat, boast over me.) v.16
 - D. vs. 19,20
- IV. LEARN THAT WITH GOD THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY FOR N. VS. 15,20,21
- A. Neither of these are possible with most people—BECAUSE most people never seem to find the grace to forgive and forget.
 - B. But with God both are possible. God will reconcile a wayward child unto Himself and restore him to service

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- C. There are many examples of this:
 - 1. David
 - 2. John Mark
 - 3. The Prodigal Son
 - 4. The man of I Cor.
 - 5. II Cor. 2:6-11

V. LEARN WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN RECONCILIATION AND RESTORATION. v. 17-22

- A. Godly sorrow for sin. v.17
- B. Confession...I will declare mine iniquity" v.18
- C. Repentance...I will be sorry for my sin" v.18
- D. Calling on God to not forsake me—but to help me and deliver me from my sin. vs. 21,22