

LESSONS FROM PSALMS FIFTY-FOUR

Scripture: Psalm 54:1-7

Ray O. Brooks

Introduction:

- A. A Psalm written by David during the time Saul was seeking to kill him.
 - B. The title sets forth the exact time which is recorded in I Samuel 23:9 and I Samuel 26:1.
 1. David had gone to hide in an area occupied by the Ziphims, whom he thought were his friends.
 2. They betrayed him and offered to help Saul capture him.
 3. David was saved by God's intervention causing a deep sleep to fall over Saul's entire army.
- I. LEARN THAT THE REALIZATION OF GOD'S NEAR PRESENCE WILL AFFECT THE LIVES OF ALL PEOPLE. v.3
- A. "they have not set God before them(selves)." This implies that had these set God before themselves, they would have acted differently.
 - B. This is true of the enemies of God.
 1. These strangers had risen up against David because they had not set God before themselves.
 2. II Kings 1 tells of three different captains of fifty men whom the king sent to bring Elijah to him. The first two were burned up and the third was saved because he asked for the mercy of God.
 3. We see this thought acted out in real life every day.
 - C. This is also true of God's own people.
 1. II Kings 6:8-23 (v.17) "Lord, open his eyes that he may see."
 2. How many of God's own people would change their ways if God were standing in some physical form before them
 - D. If God is a distant Deity sitting on a throne a million light years away; WE ALL are less likely to talk with Him... seek His will...obey His Word.
 - E. God is here...right now...set here before us.
 - F. John Gillespie Magee, Jr. in his beautiful poem HIGH FLIGHT described what it is like to slip the bonds of earth and climb into the sanctity of space. He ends the poem with the words "Put out my hand, and touch the face of God."
 - G. These words are true, BUT God is also here ...right here.
 - H. Setting God before us does not involve moving God...God cannot be moved...It simply means that we get our attitudes fixed AND KNOW THAT GOD IS EVERYWHERE.
- II. LEARN WHAT ARE SOME NECESSARY ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS TO BE BLESSED WITH GOD'S HELP.
- A. It should be noted that there are some blessings that come to all without regard to attitudes and actions life... sunshine...air to breath... rain...etc.
 - B. But there are special blessings that only come to those who recognize God and keep His word.
 - C. What are these attitudes?
 1. Verse 4. Recognize God and that He is my helper.
 2. Verse 1. Recognize that God helps:
 - a. In His Name
 - b. By His strength
 3. Verse 5. According to His truth. Moses, "God, You promised..." Even if we believe not, He is faithful.

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D. What action is needed?

1. Be still and know that I am God...NOTHING THAT WE CAN DO IN OUR OWN POWER.
2. We must call on God for salvation. v.1
Yea, even plead with God to hear. v.2

III. LEARN WHAT GOD WILL DO WHEN WE MEET HIS REQUIREMENTS.

- A. He will reward evil unto our enemies...maybe not just when we wish...but He will in His own good time. v.5
- B. He will cut off the enemies of God's people. v.5
- C. God will permit His people to view His vengeance being taken on the enemies of His people. v.7

IV. LEARN WHAT IS THE EXPECTED RESPONSE FROM GOD'S PEOPLE. v.6

- A. I will recognize how good is God's NAME.
- B. I will praise His good NAME.
- C. I will freely offer sacrifices unto God ...my life...my all. Romans 12:1,2