

## LESSONS FROM PSALMS FIFTY-SIX

Scripture: Psalm 56:1-13)

Ray O. Brooks

### Introduction:

- A. A Psalm written by David. God had chosen David as the next king of Israel. He had been anointed; but Saul still reigned and continually sought some way to kill David.
  - B. David had grown weary of being hounded by Saul and had left Judaea and sought safety in Gath, a city in Philistia, the home country of the giant David had killed.
  - C. The Philistines captured him, held him prisoner, intending to kill him. When he was brought before their king, David acted like an insane man and the king let him go.
  - D. It was during this time when his life hung in the balance that he wrote this Psalm.
- I. LEARN THAT MERCY IS OUR MOST NEEDED HELP AS LONG AS WE LIVE ON THIS EARTH. v.1
- A. David cried out to God for mercy...Whose mercy? God's.
  - B. Why was David in this trouble?
    1. He had shown a lack of faith in God's ability to take care of him in Judaea. He thought to find safety from the world's people.
    2. This was sin; thus he needed God's mercy.
  - C. Like Abraham whom God promised to bless in the land and when trouble came, he fled to Egypt.
  - D. Are we not many times like David and Abraham?
    1. Do we fail God in many ways?
    2. Do want God's justice or His mercy?
- II. LEARN THAT FAITH BECOMES REAL WHEN WE CAN'T SEE OUR WAY OUT OF TROUBLE. vs. 1-4, 9, 11
- A. David was a man of great faith.
    1. By faith he had fought the lion—the bear—the giant.
    2. Of late he hadn't been acting like a man of faith.
    3. Now, he is in the hands of the enemy and no way out and his faith again became real.
  - B. When he became afraid—when he could not see how he could get out of this tight; his faith stepped in to calm his fears. v.3
  - C. God had promised that he would be king..He again trusted God to save him...and he no longer was afraid. v.4
  - D. It is easier to step out on faith than to walk by faith. Which was easier for Peter's walk on the water, the trip out or the walk back?
  - E. Our God sometimes permits troublesome times to try our faith; but this is always for our good. I Peter 1:6,7
- III. LEARN THAT OUR GOD KNOWS AND RECORDS ALL THE TROUBLES AND SORROWS OF HIS PEOPLE. v.8
- IV. LEARN THAT GOD'S WORD IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH. vs. 4, 10
- A. Three times David proclaimed, "I will praise God's Word."
    1. Because God had promised him the kingdom and God's word is true.
    2. Based on this knowledge, David knew that neither Saul nor the Philistines would be able to kill him.
  - B. God has promised us:

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1. 1 Cor. 10:13
2. Hebrews 13:5
3. We need to be like Paul: II Tim. 1:12

V. LEARN WHAT IS THE ONLY SCRIPTURAL REASON FOR ASKING GOD FOR MERCY AND PROTECTION. vs. 4, 10, 13

- A. Why do I want to live longer? To get ahead in this world? To grow old and cranky and hard to get along with?
- B. Verses 4 and 10 give us a reason that honors God. PRAISE HIS WORD.
  1. By reading it
  2. By studying it
  3. By living it
- C. Verse 13 puts it best...Deliver me THAT I MAY WALK BEFORE GOD IN THE LIGHT OF THE LIVING.
  1. To walk before God is to live with the constant thought that my God is looking at me ...He sees all I do and hears all I say.
  2. It is like a military man passing before the reviewing stand on which his Commander in Chief stands at attention watching each man as he marches by.