

## Psalm 5 – Seeking, Looking Up, Departing, & Worshiping

Michael Silva / Aug 4, 2019

**Introduction:** We are continuing our study in the Psalms, the hymnbook of the Bible.

1. In the Psalms we find real emotions and struggles being expressed to the Lord.
  - a) In the midst of those struggles we are reminded that God is **sovereign** and that regardless of our circumstances **He is worthy of praise**.
2. In **Psalm 1** we were reminded to **Sit, Stand, and Walk in the Word**.
  - a) In **Psalm 2** the Psalmist declared gospel message... **Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him**.
  - b) In **Psalms 3 & 4**... **Rest in the Lord w/ Gladness & Peace** - David shows us by example that if we will rest in the Lord he will bring us gladness of heart, peace, and rest.
    - i) But as I rediscovered this summer, that doesn't always happen immediately, sometimes that takes some time and is a process.

**That brings us to: Psalm 5 (NKJV)<sup>i</sup>**

1. I've **summarized** our passage today **Seeking, Looking Up, Departing, & Worshiping**.

**Psalm 5: Title**      To the Chief Musician. With Flutes. A Psalm of David.

1. The author of this Psalm is stated, it's King David.
2. Commentators believe that both Psalms 5 & 6 prophetically describe the Nation of Israel in the Last Days during the Great Tribulation.
  - a) As David cries out to the Lord in his own trouble, so too will Israel cry out during her persecution during the days of her judgment.
  - b) Though this may indeed describe that Nation of Israel, it also has much application to our lives today.
3. Psalms that are addressed **To the Chief Musician** are believed to have sung as a part of corporate worship.
  - a) With **Flutes** indicates that there was a **musical accompaniment**.
  - b) Though the style changes from culture to culture, one thing that **unites humanity** is music.
    - i) Every culture and people group have developed their own form of music.
    - ii) I believe that this comes from when **God knit us together** in the womb – music was given as a form of worship and a way to express our feelings to the Lord.
4. Historical Setting: David and a contingent of his loyal followers have fled from David's son Absalom who has seized David's throne in Jerusalem.
  - a) See 1 Samuel 15-19.

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5. This is the first of a number of Psalms that are called the **imprecatory Psalms** in which the Psalmist cries out to the Lord asking for **Justice**. (more on that when we get to Ps 5:10)

**Psalm 5:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation. <sup>2</sup> Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray.

1. David repeats 3 times a plea to be heard by God. Give ear, Consider, Give heed...
  - a) Does David repeat this plea because God is hard of hearing???
  - b) My Grandpa is still alive and is very hard of hearing. I have to repeat myself often and sometimes he still just isn't able to hear and understand me.
  - c) But that's not the case with God. He can hear us so why does David repeat himself?
    - i) His circumstances were great.
    - ii) Perhaps God didn't seem to be near David in this moment of struggle.
      - (1) God often feels distant when we are struggling.
      - (2) When things are difficult we think, "Where are you God?!"
  - d) When we find ourselves in difficult situations, like David, let's follow his example.
    - i) Instead of questioning God's goodness and turning away from God, it's turn to God and repeatedly ask for His attention and intervention.
    - ii) You won't find comfort, strength, and peace by turning away from the Lord, these things can only be found by turning to the Lord.
2. David asks of the Lord Give ear to my words... It's a phrase that means cup your ear, lean in to listen.
  - a) This shows that David believed that God is interested in the affairs of our life and will listen to those who seek Him.
  - b) R.A. Torrey wrote, "Very much of so-called prayer, both public and private, is not unto God. In order that a prayer should be really unto God, there must be a definite and conscious approach to God when we pray; we must have a definite and vivid realization that God is bending over us and listening as we pray."
3. David cries out, "My King and my God". Who is the king? David, Absalom? No, God is!
  - a) Many of the problems we face are Lordship problems... Who's in charge? You or the Lord?
  - b) David knew who was in control, it was God and that's why David declares, "For to You I will pray".
    - i) David's focus was on the Lord, not himself or his circumstances.

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### **Psalm 5:3**

<sup>3</sup> My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct *it* to You, And I will look up.

1. Notice that though David was on the run from Absalom that he still stopped in the morning, before the day begins to spend time with the Lord.
  - a) I have found that a devo in the morning is the best way to start the day.
    - i) If I don't get my devo done in the morning, it's hard to get one done later in the day.
    - ii) The day gets busy, I get distracted. By the end of the day I'm tired.
  - b) The Israelites were instructed to go out daily and to collect the manna early in the morning, their daily bread from the Lord.
    - i) If they didn't collect it in the morning, it would melt away as the day wore on.
    - ii) If we don't seize the opportunity to spend time with the Lord in the morning, the opportunity to do so often melts away like the manna.
  - c) You say, "But I'm not a morning person."
    - i) When can you consistently make time for the Lord that works for you?
    - ii) Can you get to work early and do it there? Or do you have control over your lunch hour so that you can do it then?
    - iii) Don't use "I'm not a morning person" as an excuse for not having a Devo Time.
2. When David declared "I will direct [*my voice*] to You" that word **direct** is a special word that means to place in order.
  - a) This is a word that describes how the priest laid out the sacrifice at the altar.
    - i) The priest carefully and methodically laid out each piece of the sacrifice that was being offered to the Lord.
  - b) David shows us that we need to give some thought and structure to our prayers.
    - i) We are to take time laying out our prayers before the Lord.
    - ii) Prayer should not be a fire and forget, but a very thoughtful and intentional interaction with the Lord.

### **Psalm 5:4**

<sup>4</sup> For You *are* not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.

1. David speaks of **wickedness**. There is constantly a pull on our heart toward accepting and becoming comfortable with **wickedness**.
  - a) But the closer we get to God the more clearly we can see **wickedness** for what it is, falsehoods, deceit, sin that is unpleasing to the Lord!

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2. Part of what David is doing here is rehearsing the truths of God... Not for God's benefit, but for our own.
  - a) We need to be reminded that God **takes [no] pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell in His presence.**
  - b) When we are tempted to follow in the way of sin or just struggling with those over us who are in sin we must remember David's words... (vs 5-6)

**Psalm 5:5-6**      <sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. <sup>6</sup> You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

1. **Romans 1:18**      <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
2. Read **Galatians 5:19-26**.
3. Also consider **1 John 1:7** which says, <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Psalm 5:7**      <sup>7</sup> But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.

1. There is no physical temple yet, Solomon would build that. David worshiped at the tabernacle where God's presence would come and fill.
  - a) God's **holy temple** is in the heavens, above, over the things of this world.
    - i) To find God's **holy temple** we **lift up our eyes** off the things of this world.
2. Notice how David is coming to His house... **in the multitude of Your mercy**.
  - a) That's the only way David could approach.
    - i) There was no other way for there was no sacrifice David could make to cover his sins of adultery and murder.
    - ii) Instead of glossing over sin, or turning away from God because of it, we should like David cry out for God's mercy...
      - (1) And when we do we find His mercy and forgiveness.
      - (2) Seek His mercy in worship.

**Psalm 5:8**      <sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face.

1. David the great king, on the run from Absalom is asking God to lead him.

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- a) Do you regularly pray for God to lead you?

**Psalm 5:9-10** <sup>9</sup> For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part *is* destruction; Their throat *is* an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue. <sup>10</sup> Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You.

1. Imprecatory Psalm – a request for justice.

- a) Such Psalms that call for God’s punishment to fall on others (smash their teeth in, break their bones) seems inconsistent with Jesus’s teaching on love and forgiving others... Right?

- b) What’s up with these imprecatory Psalms? They help us to understand God’s righteous indignation toward sin.

- i) We have a tendency to minimize or overlook our sin, but these Psalms teach us how God really views sin.

- ii) And they speak of a forthcoming punishment for sin that ultimately was paid by Jesus at the cross.

- iii) When you hear this Psalms, think of Jesus on the cross.

2. Paul would quote this Psalm in helping us understand that it describes not just the enemies of David, but all sinners.

- a) See **Romans 3:10-18**.

- b) To hold a right view of God we must hold a right view of sin and more specifically that we are all sinners.

**Psalm 5:11-12** <sup>11</sup> But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.

1. Here is the sinner’s hope.

- a) We can rejoice when we put our trust in God. Why?

- i) B/c He defends us. He protects us. He has saved us.

**Conclusion: What’s the big take away from this passage?**

1. Seeking, Looking Up, Departing, & Worshiping.

**Invitation: Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

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<sup>i</sup> All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.