

Sermon Seeds from the Psalms

by

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Psalms One Hundred Twenty to One Hundred Twenty-Nine

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY

- 1. In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me.**
- 2. Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.**
- 3. What shall be given unto thee? or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue?**
- 4. Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.**
- 5. Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!**
- 6. My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace.**
- 7. I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war.**

The tongue is a little member of the human body but it is capable of infinite harm and misery. Deceitful tongues and lying lips caused the author of this hymn great distress. "**In my distress I cried unto The Lord.**" "**Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips.**" Such lying lips and deceitful tongues with their false accusing words have not only broken the hearts of the holy but have wrecked churches and ruined homes without number.

"There are some persons so full of nothings, that, like the strait sea of Pontus, they perpetually empty themselves by their mouths, making every company or single person they fasten on to be their Propontis." "The talking man makes himself artificially deaf, being like a man in the steeple when the bells ring." "Great knowledge, if it be without vanity, is the most severe bridle of the tongue. For so have I heard that all the noises and pratings of the pool, the croaking of frogs and toads, is hushed and appeased upon the instant of bringing upon them the light of a candle or torch. Every beam of reason and ray of knowledge checks the dissoluteness of the tongue."

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE

- 1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.**
- 2. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.**
- 3. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.**
- 4. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.**
- 5. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.**
- 6. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.**
- 7. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.**
- 8. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.**

The key phrase of the short song is found in the words, "**The Lord is thy keeper.**" It is a hymn of preservation. In eight stanzas The Lord is seen as the keeper three times, and also three times as the preserver. "**He that keepeth thee will not slumber . . . behold, he that keepeth . . . The Lord is thy keeper . . .**" "**The Lord shall preserve thee . . . he shall preserve thy soul . . . The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in.**"

One of the most ancient hieroglyphic representations of GOD was the figure of an eye upon a sceptre, to denote that GOD sees and rules all things. The Egyptian hieroglyphic was a winged globe, and a serpent coming out of it - the globe to signify GOD's eternity; the wings, his active power; and the serpent, his wisdom. The Thracian emblem was a sun with three beams, - one shining upon a sea of ice, and melting it; another upon a rock, and melting it; and a third upon a dead man, and putting life into him.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO

- 1. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.**
- 2. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.**
- 3. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:**
- 4. Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.**
- 5. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.**
- 6. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.**
- 7. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.**
- 8. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.**
- 9. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.**

This is a prophetic Hymn dealing with the restoration of Israel. The house of David is seen as restored and Jerusalem rebuilt, peaceful and prosperous. The tribes of Israel and Judah will yet go up and worship the Lord and peace shall reign upon the earth. The only hope of the seed of Abraham, the world and the Church, is in the coming of the prince of peace.

"What do you do without a mother to tell all your troubles to?" asked a child who had a mother, of one who had none. "Mother told me whom to go to before she died," answered the little orphan. "I go to The Lord JESUS: he was mother's friend, and he's mine." "JESUS CHRIST is in the sky. He is away off, and he has a great many things to attend to in Heaven. It is not likely he can stop to mind you." "I do not know any thing about that," said the orphan. "All I know, he says he will; and that's enough for me."

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE

- 1. Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**
- 2. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he have mercy upon us.**
- 3. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt.**

4. Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease, and with the contempt of the proud.

The four verses of this fine hymn send up a pitiful plea to the GOD who dwelleth in the Heavens for mercy and salvation. Three times in four stanzas the word mercy is breathed and penned by the sighing poet. **"Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he have mercy upon us. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us."** Such prayers and pleas shall never go unheeded or unanswered.

Mercy hath but its name from misery, and is no other thing than to lay another's misery to heart.
- Binney

The depths of our misery can never fall below the depths of mercy. - Sibbes

The plaster is as wide as the wound. - Henry

The mercies of GOD will be loadstones to draw us to Heaven, or millstones to sink us to perdition. When Thomas Hooker was dying, one said to him, "You are going to receive the reward of your labors." He replied, "I am going to receive mercy."

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR

- 1. If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, now may Israel say;**
- 2. If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us:**
- 3. Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:**
- 4. Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul:**
- 5. Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.**
- 6. Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.**
- 7. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.**
- 8. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The key words are "if," and "then!" **"If it had not been the Lord who was on our side . . .** (verse 1), **If it had not been the Lord who was on our side. . .** (verse 2), **Then they had swallowed us up quick . . .** (verse 3), **Then the waters had overwhelmed us . . .** (verse 4), **Then the proud waters had gone over our soul"** (verse 5).

- A stammering Moses plus GOD spells success against all the sinful Pharaohs on earth.
- A believing Caleb and an obedient Joshua plus GOD is more than a match for swollen rivers and obstinate Canaanites.
- A godly and faithful Gideon plus GOD means victory over the hosts of evil.
- A dutiful and purposeful Daniel plus GOD amounts to peace and preservation even in the lion's den.
- A trio of holy boys plus GOD is a majority over the fury of mad monarchs, fierce furnaces, and strong soldiers.
- An Esther and Mordecai plus GOD are more than a match for all the wicked and unholy

Hamans in any land.

- A few ignorant and unlearned disciples plus GOD may turn the world right side up.

The distance between success and failure, victory or defeat is in the name of "**The LORD.**" "**The LORD...**" (verse 1), "**The LORD...**" (verse 2), "**The LORD...**" (verse 6), "**The LORD...**" (verse 8).

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE

- 1. They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.**
- 2. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.**
- 3. For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.**
- 4. Do good, O Lord, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts.**
- 5. As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.**

The most important possession in this world is not money, or position, or power, or place, or health, or kingly birth, but faith.

There were only two things which caused CHRIST to marvel. One was faith and the other was unbelief. He marveled because of their unbelief. "**O woman, great is thy faith.**" Skyscrapers and inventions do not make him marvel but faith in the heart of man stirs his holy soul. "**They that trust . . . shall be as mount Zion.**" "**Without faith it is impossible to please Him (God).**"

As a traveller overtaken by a storm, having sought the shelter of some fair-spread oaks, finds relief for some time, till, suddenly, the fierce wind tears some strong branch, which falling, hurts the unsuspecting passenger; so fares it with not a few who run for shelter to the shade of some great man. "Had I served my GOD," said poor Wolsey, "as faithfully as I have served my king, he would not have forsaken me now."

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX

- 1. When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.**
- 2. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them.**
- 3. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.**
- 4. Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south.**
- 5. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.**
- 6. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.**

No man, even in a lifetime of study, could possibly fathom the depths or exhaust the meaning of anyone of these monumental Songs.

Psalm 126 looks forward to the restoration of Israel. **"When The Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream."**

In a day yet future, verse two will be perfectly fulfilled, **"Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing."**

THEN will it again be said, **"The LORD hath done great things for us."**

This six stanza song is certainly prophetic. The lessons for us today are clear:

- (1) All sin ends in slavery.
- (2) Wickedness spells woe.
- (3) Backslidings bring bondage.
- (4) Penitence will bring pardon.
- (5) Salvation results in singing.
- (6) To love GOD truly ends in holy laughter and boundless joy.
- (7) Godliness produces gladness.
- (8) Faithful service culminates in fulness and satisfaction for time and eternity.

A heart turning to GOD and holiness terminates in triumph for ever.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN

- 1. Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.**
- 2. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.**
- 3. Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.**
- 4. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.**
- 5. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.**

Sin had robbed the people of GOD of holiness, happiness, and home. They had attempted to live without GOD, without a chart, and without a compass. The result was ship-wreck. Through long years of loneliness, wanderings, and unrest, they had learned that:

- **"Except the LORD"** build the house, they labor in vain that build it.
- **"Except the LORD"** regenerates the heart, they labor in vain who try to reform it.
- **"Except the LORD"** sanctify the soul, they labor in vain that seek to cleanse it.
- **"Except the LORD"** is the host in the home, they labor in vain who build it.
- **"Except the LORD"** send the refreshing showers, they labor in vain who seek a revival.
- **"Except the LORD"** build the house of prayer, the doors may just as well be locked, bolted, and barred.

And thank GOD, he will build if we sincerely ask Him and believe.

"He that spared not his own Son . . . shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

(Romans 8:32)

Not by my need alone I ask this token
That Thou, O Lord, dost hear and heed my cry;
But by Thy promise that cannot be broken,
That all my need in CHRIST Thou wilt supply;
Not by my love for Thee, so oft disproved,
Not by my gifts to Thee, so poor and small,
But by Thy love that gave Thy best-beloved,
And with that one great Gift included all.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT

- 1. Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways.**
- 2. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.**
- 3. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.**
- 4. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord.**
- 5. The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.**
- 6. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.**

To fear GOD and obey Him is to be blessed indeed. While all mankind seek happiness and seek it in vain, the obedient children of GOD have found it and enjoy it. **"Happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well"** (verse 2).

This Song sets forth the key to happiness here and hereafter:

- (1) **"Blessed is everyone that feareth the LORD."**
- (2) **"Blessed is everyone that . . . walketh in his ways."**
- (3) **"Happy shalt thou be."**
- (4) **"Thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD."**
- (5) **"The LORD shall bless thee."**
- (6) **"Thou shalt see the good."**
- (7) **"All the days of thy life."**

All this and more in only six verses.

A minister in Brooklyn was recently called upon by a businessman, who said, "I come, sir, to inquire if JESUS CHRIST will take me into the concern as a silent partner." "Why do you ask?" said the minister. "Because I wish to be a member of the firm, and do not wish anybody to know it," said the man. The reply was, "CHRIST takes no silent partners. The firm must be 'JESUS CHRIST & Co.:' and the names of the 'Co.,' though they may occupy a subordinate place, must all be written out on the signboard.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE

1. Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say:
2. Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me.
3. The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows.
4. The Lord is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.
5. Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion.
6. Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withereth afore it groweth up:
7. Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom.
8. Neither do they which go by say, The blessing of the Lord be upon you: we bless you in the name of the Lord.

The afflictions of Israel have been many and severe. Some of these sorrows were caused by their own sins. Others resulted from the hatred and opposition of enemies. Satan, too, is a malicious destroyer. Despite the enmity of men and devils, the people of GOD have survived. They are as imperishable as the GOD who loves them and who has chosen them. They are as indestructible as the Holy Bible. Wicked men have hated GOD and His CHRIST but both shall triumph over all opposition. Evil men have hated the holy Bible and have done their worst to get rid of it, but it is still a best seller. The crooked and carnal sons of men have tried for centuries to kill the chosen people of GOD, but all in vain. Even the wrath of man has been made to praise GOD. "**Many a time have they afflicted me . . . yet they have not prevailed against me.**" The word *yet* is the key which opens the whole hymn.

**"O ye of little faith . . . His compassions fail not...
great is thy faithfulness."**

Though waves and billows o'er me pass
In whelming floods of ill,
Within the haven of GOD's love
My soul is anchored still;
For though the stress and strain of life
My thread of faith may break,
The cable of His faithfulness
No storm can ever shake.

~ end of chapter 14 ~

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