

Comfort within Trials

Psalm 3: 1-8

The setting for our text is quite significant. David wrote this Psalm as he fled from Absalom, his son. Facing battle and being forced to flee in order to survive were nothing new to David. He had experienced this many times before, but this time was much different. This time he fled from one he loved and cared for. No doubt this must've been one of the most difficult situations of David's life. Little could be worse than being betrayed by your son, knowing his desire to kill you.

I doubt any of us can relate directly to the pain and anguish David felt during this situation, but we have all experienced pain and hurt before. It may have come from family or close friends, those we least expect to hurt us. We live in a society that is increasingly less tolerant of our faith. If you are determined to stand for the Lord and serve Him, you will face adversity.

Life will have its share of difficulty, but the believer is never alone. When defeat seems certain, remember the Lord is always there. I want to examine the [circumstances](#) of David's life during this time as we consider: [Comfort within Trials](#).

I. David's Adversity (1-2) – We don't have a lot of detail, but David reveals enough to reveal the adversity he faced. Notice:

A. The Rebellion of the Enemy (1) – [LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me.](#) Most agree this was written while he fled from Absalom and we have no reason to doubt that. He doesn't mention Absalom by name, so it is impossible to know with certainty, but it is apparent David faced a rebellion. This wasn't just a minor disagreement within the kingdom. It was a full blown conflict. David cried out unto the Lord due to the vast number that has risen against him. He was king of Israel and yet he faced rebellion from within.

▪ Few, if any, escape life without facing some sort of conflict or adversity. It isn't something rational people enjoy, but we are forced to deal with it. Trouble is something we all face, even if we seek to avoid it. At times trouble comes looking for us. We live in a sin cursed world, filled with those who inhabit bodies of flesh, prone to sinful lusts and desires. I truly believe things will continue to wax worse and worse. Our troubles are likely to increase as time progresses.

B. The Reproach of the Enemy (2) – [Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah.](#) Those who knew David knew of his relationship with the Lord. They knew he was a man who sought to please God, one who faithfully worshiped the Lord. His enemies slandered David's faith and the God he served. This was a direct attack on David and the Lord.

- The world doesn't embrace our faith or serve the Lord. They mock our faith and despise our Savior. The enemy seeks to discredit our faith and question the existence and ability of God. They would argue, "If God exists, He would be unwilling or unable to help." They view us as weak and incapable of defending ourselves because we trust in One we cannot see. The enemy will do all he can to create doubt, slandering our faith and the God we serve.

II. David's Security (3-6) – David may have been betrayed by his own family and some of his closest advisors, but he was not without hope. In the midst of this great trial, David enjoyed great confidence and security in the Lord. Consider:

A. The Perimeter (3a) – *But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me.* The enemy raged and sought to advance, but David had a great advantage. The Lord was a shield for him. If the enemy was to get to David, they would have to penetrate the shield of God that hovered over him. He was in the safest place in the world, secure within the perimeter God had set for him. *Psalm 139:5 – Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.*

- There are times when it appears our world is crumbling around us. Defeat seems imminent and there appears no hope of escape. In our seasons of difficulty and testing, we too can rely upon the hand of the Lord to keep us. We are safe within His care. The enemy will advance no further against us than the Lord allows. *Psalm 84:11 – For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

B. The Provision (3b) – *But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.* What grace we discover here. David was defended by the Lord and sustained by Him as well. The battle was not his to fight. He was resting solely in the Lord. Absalom sought to discredit David as king. He had slandered his name and incited rebellion. David was not worried. God alone was David's glory and he knew that God would defend Him in every way. David had taken care to walk with God and he knew God would defend his reputation.

- We would do well to learn this great truth. We are no match for the enemy. Within our own strength, defeat is certain. We need to rely on the Lord and allow Him to fight our battles for us.
- I do care what people think of me. I never want to be a reproach upon the Lord, but I realize He alone is the only thing I can boast of. If there is any glory in my life, it belongs to God who gave it. If I will take care to walk with Him, guarding my character, God will take care of my reputation. He will lift me up even among my enemies.

C. The Prayer (4) – I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.

David enjoyed a close relationship with the Lord. He was a man of prayer and fellowshiped with God. This was not a last ditch effort, in hopes God would respond. David cried out unto the Lord in full assurance that his prayer would be heard. He knew the battle was too great to overcome alone and he sought the Lord's help and guidance.

- Most of us are aware of the power and benefit of prayer, but do we pray as we should? Are we confident in the Lord's ability as David was? Do we regularly commune with God or is prayer viewed as a final effort when all other options have been exhausted? We are encouraged to pray without ceasing. We should be in a continual state of prayer, seeking the Lord daily about every situation of life. The struggles we face are much too difficult to overcome apart from the Lord. I want to be as David was; walking with the Lord in such a way that I enjoy confidence He will hear when I pray. American President Abraham Lincoln said, "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day." ⁱ

D. The Peace (5-6) – I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me. ^[6] I will not be afraid

of ten thousands of people, that have set *themselves* against me round about. That might seem unusual for one who had fled for his life, but David had full confidence in the Lord. He slept at night, knowing the Lord would keep him, and he woke safely in the morning. The enemy was advancing in large numbers, but David was not afraid. He sought the Lord in prayer, leaving the battle unto the Lord, and he enjoyed perfect peace in the midst of grave adversity.

- Often our lives are plagued with senseless worry. There is much we face, and yet there is little we can do about it. Our lives are in the hand of God. We would do well to seek the Lord in prayer, giving Him our problems, and resting confidently in His great power. Had it not been for the Lord we would've been consumed already. He has kept us safe thus far and I am confident He will see us through. What have we to fear when the Lord is on our side!

III. David's Victory (7-8) – In these verses David speaks of certain victory in the Lord. Notice:

A. His Reliance (7a) – Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God. Again we see David's complete reliance on the Lord. He was not planning to fight this battle. He was depending solely on the Lord to defend and keep him. He had no doubt God would meet his need.

- This is a simple concept, but it is one that is hard to master. We know God has all power. We know He loved us enough to provide the means of our salvation. We know we are eternally

secure in Him, and yet many times we doubt His ability to meet our temporal needs. I am well aware that I will never make it apart from the Lord. Were it not for His great mercies, I would've never survived this long. We need to place our complete trust and faith in the Lord, relying solely upon Him to carry us through.

B. His Restraint (7b) – *for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.* David wasn't expected to fight the battle and he never intended to. He knew the Lord had delivered him thus far and he was determined to allow the Lord to fight this battle as well. David was a man of power and influence, but he knew his power paled in comparison to that of the Lord. Rather than going it alone, he decided to trust in the Lord. David exercised restraint and allowed the Lord to handle the situation.

- Many times our lives would enjoy greater victory, avoiding senseless conflict, if we allowed the Lord to fight our battles. Often it is best to pray and give the Lord time to respond and deal with situations of life. I have suffered defeat many times because I decided to handle a situation in my own strength and wisdom rather than praying and letting the Lord take care of it. Restraint doesn't signal weakness; often it reveals great strength!

C. His Redemption (8) – *Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.* Defeat seemed imminent from those who looked on. David was greatly outnumbered and it appeared he would perish. He knew he couldn't make it in himself and trusted the Lord for victory. David knew salvation was of the Lord and he praised God for His great redemption.

- There is practical application here, but the spiritual application is much greater. While in sin we were surrounded by the enemy. We were bound in sin, condemned before God. There was no hope of escape and death was looming. Had it not been for the mercies of God providing for our salvation, we all would remain in sin and destined for eternal death. God made a way where there seemed no way. Christ bore our sin and died as the atoning sacrifice for sin. Salvation is of the Lord. He brought me out of the pit of sin and death and He continues to guide and keep me!

Conclusion: There is great hope in this Psalm. We all face trials and adversity, but we do not have to face them alone. God made a way for our salvation. The saved are bought with a price. Christ loved us enough to die for us and we can rest assured in His power to keep us.

Are you struggling with adversity? Does it seem you are overwhelmed and surrounded by the enemy? Do you know the joy of salvation in the Lord? If there are needs, Jesus is the answer!

ⁱ Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Psalms I.