

## Wisdom of the King

Psalm 34: 11-18

Like many of David's psalms, this one was written in the throes of desperation. When we consider David, we often remember his great sin with Bathsheba and his great success as king, but we often forget the years of struggle and despair he faced while fleeing from King Saul. Many agree this psalm was written following his escapade into Gath, the land of the Philistines. It is believed he had gathered his men together in a cave, again hiding from Saul, and offered sound wisdom to his weary men.

While we live in a vastly different environment, facing entirely different struggles, these words of wisdom are eternal. Although penned in a cave, thousands of years ago, they remain relevant and needful today. I want to examine the [abiding lessons](#) of David as we consider: [Wisdom of the King](#).

**I. A Challenging Word** (11-14) – David opened this psalm with a beautiful offering of praise unto the Lord. Following a time of worship, he gathered his men around him and began to teach them as a father does his children. [Psalm 34:11 – Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD](#). Considering the challenge David presented, we discover:

**A. A Reasonable Question** (12) – [What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?](#) Like any good teacher, David sought to set the stage by offering a question that immediately caught their attention. This certainly was a reasonable question considering the difficulties these men had endured. No doubt, any reasonable man would desire life and many days filled with good. I dare say we all would agree with this as well. While the saved by grace are prepared for death, we all have a desire to live a long and fulfilling life.

**B. A Reliable Solution** (13-14) – [Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.](#) <sup>[14]</sup> [Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.](#) David not only presented a challenging question, but he also offered a reliable solution. No doubt these men all desired to live a long and prosperous life, and David sought to reveal unto them the approach to achieve such a lofty goal. These were simple words, and yet they were very profound. In essence David admonished his men to choose their words carefully and walk in a way that pleased the Lord. Their deeds must be consistent with their speech.

- No doubt many of you understand the value of such wise counsel. Unfortunately, many in modern society have yet to grasp the benefit of such pursuit. Consider the world we would enjoy if

everyone determined to live by these words. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone considered the impact of their words before they were spoken? What kind of world would we inhabit if everyone determined to speak only truth and refused to spread gossip and slander? We are witnessing the impact of immorality and violence in our world. Consider the environment we would enjoy if men determined to depart from evil activity, doing good and pursuing peace! We too must guard our words and ensure our walk is pleasing unto the Lord.

**II. A Confident Word** (15-17) – David and his men knew that Saul had turned many in Israel against them. They lived on the run, constantly aware of the possibility of betrayal. Surely they felt at times as if they were all alone, and no one really cared. David sought to encourage them, revealing the Lord's love and care for them. David spoke of:

**A. God's Awareness of the Righteous** (15) – *The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.* Hidden in a cave, and presumably forsaken by many, David encouraged his men in the Lord. While others may have betrayed them and sought their lives, the Lord had not forsaken or forgotten them. In fact, He kept His eyes upon them and was ready at any moment to hear their cries for help. David assured them the Lord was mindful of them.

- What comfort we find in these words. While our situation is much different, I know we have all faced seasons of doubt and despair. We have endured situations when it appeared no one knew our burden or even cared. The child of God is never alone. The Lord's eyes are continually upon us, constantly aware of our need. His ears are always attentive to our pleas for help. When no one else knows or cares, we have a Savior who always does! *1 Peter 3:12 – For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

**B. God's Anger toward the Rebellious** (16) – *The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.* There were times when it appeared David and his men would not survive. Saul and the many adversaries they faced seemed to continually have the upper hand. David was greatly outnumbered, but the Lord was on his side. While God blessed those who sought Him, He also judged those who rebelled against Him. David knew the battle belonged to the Lord, and He would always respond according to His righteous nature.

- We live in a wicked and sinful world. Each year those who deny the Lord and rebel against His grace appear to gain more ground. We are becoming more of a minority with each passing day. Like David, we too must remember that God is keeping a record. He will deal with those who resist His grace and seek to hinder the church. We are not called to judge or administer justice;

we are called to share the Gospel of Christ. The Lord watches over us, and He is aware of the wickedness of men.

- As I consider these sobering words I am compelled to be a faithful witness. We live in the day of grace, but one day grace will be withdrawn and God's wrath will be poured out. He will judge those who have denied His grace and blasphemed His good name. Although we are outnumbered and rejected, we must continue to proclaim the Gospel to those who need to hear!

**C. God's Attendance to the Righteous** (17) – *The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.* David encouraged his men to continue praying unto the Lord. He knew God was faithful to hear their cries of despair and deliver them by His mighty hand. While they were hiding from the enemy, they had nothing to fear. God would respond to their pleas and attend to their needs.

- Do you ever consider just how blessed we are? The saved by grace have unlimited access to the Lord. We can come before Him at any time, for any need, knowing He not only hears, but is able and willing to respond to our need.

**III. A Comforting Word** (18) – *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.* In the midst of their anxiety, David sought to comfort them in the Lord. He spoke of:

**A. God's Presence** (18a) – *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart.* Bear in mind, these men were likely in a cave, possibly surrounded by the enemy. They were forced to deal with the presence of the enemy, but there was one much closer and mightier than the enemy. David assured his men that the Lord would draw nigh to those of a broken heart. He would be near those who sought Him in their moments of desperation. The Lord watched over and kept them by His mighty power. Just a few moments before, David proclaimed – *The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them, v.7.*

- We often associate the presence of God with the church building. While I am thankful we enjoy His presence while gathered for worship, we are not without Him as we go through our daily lives. He is always near those who love Him. The Spirit abides within, continually guarding and guiding our lives. We have the opportunity to commune with the Lord in prayer and receive instruction through His Word. God's presence is available any time we desire to be near Him!

**B. God's Provision (18b)** – [and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit](#). David revealed that God had promised to deliver those whose spirits are crushed. He is always aware of His people and able to deliver them in their time of need. These men were never alone and never without the help and provision of the Lord. He would faithfully meet the needs of those who sought Him.

- We serve as awesome and powerful God. He created the world and the vastness of the universe. He is omnipotent in power and omniscient in wisdom. We cannot fathom the awesome power and wisdom of our God, and yet He cares for us. He is concerned with our needs, and desires to strengthen us in our adversity. He is always near those who are broken before Him, sensing their need and calling on Him for help.

- As I pondered this powerful instruction David offered his men, I became aware of the blessedness of the Gospel. David was looking forward to Calvary, the coming of Messiah, and we look back to Calvary through eyes of faith. All of this is possible because of the gracious provision of God on our behalf. We are mere mortals, sinful and disobedient, and yet we are offered salvation through His marvelous grace. Salvation provides more than we can possibly comprehend. Our sin is forgiven; we are reconciled to God; we are made heirs of the promise, and granted eternal life. We will face difficulty and pain, but we are secure in Christ our Lord. He provided life for all who come to Him in salvation!

**Conclusion:** Are you burdened and struggling today? Have the cares of life brought doubt and despair to your life? If so, there is no need to carry that burden alone another moment. The Lord has promised to hear your prayer for help and respond to your need. Come before Him with an honest heart and receive the help you desire. If you are yet unsaved, I urge you to consider the provision of Christ available through His grace. Respond to Him, repent of sin, and believe in faith!