

## Psalms 3-5

**Psalms 4:4,5 Be angry and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.**

Psalms 3 – 5 are each Psalms of David. The inscription, “A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom, his son.” Introduces the 3<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. As such, this sets the Psalm in one of David’s darkest hours. The Psalm is a morning Psalm in which a prayer is offered to God at the beginning of a very difficult day. The fourth Psalm is an evening Psalm suggesting the thoughts and prayers expressed at the conclusion of a very hard day. Psalms 5 is another morning Psalm and so we have the sequence of morning, evening and the next morning.

**Psalms 3:** David awakens bearing the weight of those who have gathered against him. “They have increased”, the bad news is getting worse. He can imagine their words so clearly it is as if he can hear them speaking, “There is no help for him in God.” In other words they are saying, “Even God can’t help him now.”

But against this thought, David rebels, “You, O Lord are a shield for me...” David has cried out to the Lord and he knows that he has been heard. He identifies reason for hope and assurance. He slept through the night. He woke up in the morning. (matters

about which there was some doubt). David looks within and feels no fear. He calls out to God for salvation – which He is fully capable of delivering. The ordinary work of God is the blessing of His people.

**Psalms 4:** The difficult day has passed. David has survived. God has kept him safe and yet, the issue remains unresolved for his enemies still are seeking to destroy him. So David thanks God and continues to seek His mercy. He feels the frustration of a problem that is still unresolved and wonders how people can be so hard-headed. He reminds himself that the Lord will stand by the godly and that his prayers will be heard.

David has all of this running through his mind as he lies upon his bed. He reminds himself to stay away from sin, to be still, to express his determination to do what is right and to trust in the Lord.

Then, in contrast to those who remain in doubt, David receives the grace of peace and assurance. God puts gladness in his heart, He gives the blessing of peaceful sleep. David rests assured that God will keep him safe.

**Psalms 5:** It is the next morning and David has survived yet another night. The new day looms and again, David turns to God for encouragement. It is morning and David looks up expectantly.

He sees the matter clearly now. God does not take pleasure in wickedness. What is happening is an affront to God. “The boastful shall not stand in Your sight, You hate all workers of iniquity. You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.”

In contrast, David relies on God’s mercy. He wants to worship God in all of His holiness, he seeks to be clearly directed in the Lord’s righteous ways.

His enemies do not think in these ways. They have a destructive spirit and you can’t trust anything they say. David asks God to cast His vote and declare a verdict on these who have rebelled against Him.

These thoughts lead to joy. It is the rejoicing experienced by those who are confident about their standing before the Lord. They know that God blesses the righteous and that His favor surrounds them like a shield.

The sequence of morning, evening and morning builds faith and lifts the prayer to heights not possible in just one session. In just a 24 hour period David grows from playing the tape, “Even God can’t help him now” to the shout of joy that celebrates an inevitable victory.