

Psalms 54,55

Psalms 55:16,17 As for me, I will call upon God, and the lord shall save me. Evening and at morning and at noon I will pray and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.

Both of these Psalms were written in the midst of crisis. Even when he was "on the run" David had time to be with God and to express his thoughts and feelings.

Psalms 54: The inscription to the psalm presents the psalm as a response to the betrayal of David by the Ziphites who reported David's location to King Saul when Saul was trying to kill David. David's boldness and confidence that God was on his side should be attributed to God's promises rather than to David's ego.

David called upon God to save him and based his appeal upon God's name. God's name represents the entirety of who He is. Specifically, David appealed to God's strength or might - an attribute that could be helpful if someone is trying to take your life. In his prayer David states the nature of the crisis. He has enemies who are seeking to take his life.

David then expresses his assurance that God is on his side. He was anointed to be king and so to conspire against David was to oppose God's will.

In the final verses of praise, David appears to speak prophetically in anticipation of a resolution to the crisis. "For He has delivered me out of all trouble..." God's promise is a guarantee. To possess the promise is to experience victory. This was David's position of faith.

Psalms 55: David expresses here grievous pain and emotion around the particular circumstance that was the occasion of the psalm. Verses 12 -15 describe this, "For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; then I could hide from him. But it was you, a man my equal, my companion and my acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked to the house of God in the throng." Some speculate that David may have been referring to Ahithophel who turned against David during the rebellion of Absalom. If this was the case then the entire circumstance should be seen in the context of David's great sin and its consequences.

Here is a reality that may be surprising for us: The misery of pain that we have directly or indirectly brought upon ourselves feels just as bad as pain that we may encounter innocently, having no responsibility for its onset. Here, David expresses his distress, "My heart is severely pained within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me. fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me." David just wanted to get away, "O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest."

In the midst of the crisis David maintained the certainty that his opponents had crossed the line and were against the Lord. The resolution David prayed for was vindication and salvation. David prayed earnestly and persistently morning, evening and at noon. The crisis was an issue of heart and mind as soon as he woke up, throughout the day and even filled his thoughts when he went to bed. But David turned this into prayer. It's possible that David might have inspired Daniel's habit of prayer; morning, noon, and night.

David concludes: "Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."