

Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Thursday 21st May

Psalm 56

For the director of music. To the tune of 'A Dove on Distant Oaks'. Of David. A miktam. When the Philistines had seized him in Gath.

This is fascinating. David's in another very tough place. This Psalm is almost a conversation with God. David alternates bringing his fears to God with expressions of trust and praise. How realistic this is! Something is really getting at you, it turn and twists in your mind. While you pray, these worries keep bursting in. David takes his genuine fear straight to God, and is able to trust in him.

1 Be merciful to me, my God,
for my enemies are in hot pursuit;
all day long they press their attack.
2 My adversaries pursue me all day long;
in their pride many are attacking me.

Sharing the problem with God is 95% of the answer.

3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

4 In God, whose word I praise –
in God I trust and am not afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?

The emphasis of the Psalm. Repeated in the closing verses (and in the song below)

5 All day long they twist my words;
all their schemes are for my ruin.
6 They conspire, they lurk,
they watch my steps,
hoping to take my life.
7 Because of their wickedness do not let them escape;
in your anger, God, bring the nations down.
It's really, really tough - so David takes time to pray.

8 Record my misery;
list my tears on your scroll –
are they not in your record?

Such a tender picture of our Father. In heaven there are no more tears, but for now God sees our tears, and wraps us in his love.

9 Then my enemies will turn back
when I call for help.
By this I will know that God is for me.

10 In God, whose word I praise,
in the Lord, whose word I praise –
11 in God I trust and am not afraid.
What can man do to me?

It's not that we don't tremble, worry and sweat when we are in a tight place: we do. But we have total confidence in God, who knows and is all powerful. We know trials are here for a reason, we know God is using them to bring us closer to him, to display his keeping power and glorify his name. And we trust, we commit our way to Him. We know 'all things work for good', that while we don't have answers we have promises. That if God doesn't take us out of a situation, he will bring us through it.

As so we give thanks, and praise our great God. And dedicate our lives afresh to Him, to His service and His praise.

12 I am under vows to you, my God;
I will present my thank-offerings to you.

13 For you have delivered me from death
and my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before God
in the light of life.

Listen to ['You are my hiding place'](#) (again), as the chorus picks up the theme - Whenever I am
afraid I will trust in you.

May we learn to walk before God day by day, till we walk with him in glory!

Gordon