“Christ in the Psalms: The Gospel According to David”

Psalm 22

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 4/3/22)

 Psalm 22 is a psalm of suffering, an anthem for all who suffer. At the same time, it is the heart cry of our Savior, Jesus. Everyone knows what it is to suffer, usually in circumstances not of their own choosing. Sometimes we cry out to God, but hear only silence from Heaven.

 In Ps. 22, David is crying out in his suffering, as well as giving prophetic words about the coming King, Jesus. Even in 2022, God’s people cry out, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” in times of profound discouragement. Yes, there are times when God seems to have abandoned His people. If you feel this way, you don’t lack maturity or faith. It is normal for people of faith, just as it was normal for Jesus to experience this same feeling. A weakness of flesh is not always a weakness of faith. (Q1)

 There is a lot to learn from David’s lament. There is a huge distinction between “Why, God?” and “My God, why?” People cry the former when God has not performed according to their expectations. When people cry the latter, their starting point is one of trust. Faith sings God’s nearness even when feelings cannot.

 When earth’s suffering is met with Heaven’s silence, we often a) look inside with self-pity, or b) look ahead with dread. Self-pity is a prison. (Q2) Dread is a perpetual state of doom and gloom. The real question is, what do we do about suffering? What is the remedy?

 The remedy is to remember God’s covenant love for His people. The remedy is to remember His past faithfulness. David looks to his God and remembers His real, tangible answers to prayer. David remembers God’s faithfulness to Him in his past. God is always faithful; He is always trustworthy. THAT’S WHO HE IS! When suffering is met with God’s silence, look to His past faithfulness, not your present feelings. (Q3)

 In 1Peter 1:10-11, Peter tells of prophecy from 1,000 years before the cross. This foreshadowing predicts the sufferings of Christ. The prophecy of Ps. 22 invites us into the heart of the Gospel. It speaks of the depth of Christ’s suffering for you. Jesus took the wrath of God **for you**. You and I were once alienated from God. From eternity past, Jesus had never once been alienated from God, until he willingly became so on the cross. David felt abandoned; Jesus was abandoned and forsaken for our sake. Jesus stood before God’s inflexible justice and became the sin-bearer **for us**. For reconciliation with God to happen, Jesus had to be forsaken by God. (Q4)

 God will never forsake you because you belong to the One who died for you! (Rom. 8:31-32). God never abandons those for whom Christ died. I may have weak faith, but it’s in a strong Savior! The truth: God is at work for His people in their suffering, whether or not His good hand is seen or felt. (Q5)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Agree or disagree, then explain.
2. How is self-pity a prison?
3. Ps. 22:22 talks of testifying of “the wonderful things You have done.” Take a few minutes to remember what God has done for you, then share these things with your group.
4. The Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13) starts out, “Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name…” That the King of Creation would let His Son be forsaken so that I could be reconciled to Him gives me endless reasons to hallow His name! As a group, stop and praise Him for this incredible gift.
5. Philip Yancey, writing about suffering, said this: “I take hope in Jesus’ scars… Because of Easter, I can hope that the tears we shed, the blows we endure, the emotional pain, the heartache over lost friends and loved ones, all these will become memories, like Jesus’ scars. Scars never completely go away, but neither do they hurt any longer. We will have re-created bodies, a re-created heaven and earth. We will have a new start, an Easter start.” Pastor Steve encouraged us to look to the past and remember God’s faithfulness AND the immensity of His gift of grace to us. Who needs to hear this Good News from you? How can you share it with them? Share one name with your group and pray for them now.

 “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (Bridges)

1. Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing
Of Him Who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.
2. Crown Him the Lord of life!
Who triumphed o’er the grave,
Who rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.
3. Crown Him the Lord of heav’n!
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv’n
From yonder glorious throne,
To Thee be endless praise,
For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days
Adored and magnified.