



A FRIEND'S BETRAYAL Psalm 55

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In this Sermon Series, "Psalms: Hymns of Praise" today will study our last individual lament as we study Psalm 55, a common crisis that many people encounter in life. In fact, it is fitting as we approach the Holy Week and Palm Sunday where we remember Jesus as he is loved by all yet prepares for the cross He bears for sinners; which involved His own betrayal from a dear friend and disciple, Judas. So, in Psalm 52-55, David is emotionally devastated in being called a traitor by Saul & prays for justice, then he is slandered and betrayed by the Ziphites, and now is pouring out his heart to God because, most likely Absalom, his son, has plotted against him while his friend Ahithophel has betrayed him.

READ, Psalm 55:1-22

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David.

*"Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy! **2** Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan, **3** because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they drop trouble upon me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me. **4** My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me. **5** Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me. **6** And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest; **7** yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; Selah **8** I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest." **9** Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues; for I see violence and strife in the city. **10** Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it; **11** ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace. **12** For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him. **13** But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. **14** We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng. **15** Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart. **16** But I call to God, and the Lord will save me. **17** Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice. **18** He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me. **19** God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, Selah because they do not change and do not fear God. **20** My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant. **21** His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. **22** Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved."*

1. The **BURDENS** We Bear is **LIGHTENED** by The Lord. (v 1-8)

- The prayer of DISTRESS.

2. The **BETRAYAL** is **BITTER PAIN** When The Betrayer is a **FRIEND**. (v 9-15)

- The Prayer of JUSTICE.

3. Cast Your **CARES** on the **LORD** and He Will **SUSTAIN** You. (v 16-23)

“casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

- The Prayer of ASSURANCE.

“The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.” Psalm 53:1

Salvation through Jesus Christ

*The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith"... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead YOU WILL BE SAVED. **The Bible says to REPENT of your sins. BELIEVE in Jesus receiving His forgiveness.** Then, identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.*