

THE GOD WHO DELIGHTS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS
Psalm 5

Intro: As we read this Psalm we realize that David was in serious trouble. What the trouble was, we do not know, but it is thought to be either with Saul or Absalom.

His prayer seems to be inconsistent with his behavior in either case. In the case of Saul, he refused to put his hand on the Lord's anointed. No one grieved more than David did when Saul was dead. In the case of Absalom, he plead with his men to spare Absalom. Again, his grief was almost beyond consolation when Absalom was killed.

How can we reconcile these apparent inconsistencies?

Well, a man can be very different before God, recognizing that God is a righteous God, and by His very nature will not continue to tolerate sin.

Also, the glory of God, and the purposes of God, were at stake. Therefore, in praying against his enemies, David was actually praying that God's purposes, now and in eternity, would ultimately be fulfilled. David longed for the time when there would no longer be any sin.

So it was not with a feeling for revenge, but much higher purposes which moved David to pray. It was not with bitterness toward his enemies, but with great concern for the will of God, that he prayed. This was surely one major thing that made David a man after God's heart! This is praying according to the will of God.

But let us look at the Psalm.

There are three divisions:

- 1) David's sincerity in prayer (vv. 1-3).
- 2) David's confidence in prayer (vv. 4-6).
- 3) David's petitions in prayer (vv. 7-12).

I. DAVID'S SINCERITY IN PRAYER (Psa. 5:1-3).

This is seen in each of these three verses.

- A. His willingness for God to see that His words and thoughts were in harmony with each other (v. 1). David was not speaking one way while really feeling another way.
- B. His submission to God as his King and his God, and his dependence upon God alone (v. 2).

David had learned that we are not to force our will upon

God, but every trial is to bring us to a place of great-trust in the Lord. Nor are we to pray with the idea that there are other things that we can do if the Lord does not hear us.

C. The time of his praying, and his watchfulness (v. 3).

It is very doubtful if we are really concerned about a thing unless it burdens us enough to get us up in the morning. Notice the words "in the morning" appear twice for emphasis.

But David not only got up to pray, but to keep watch (as the words "look up" indicate). This meant that he was looking for the answer, and did not want to miss it.

These are the characteristics of a sincere prayer.

II. DAVID'S CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER (Psa. 5:4-6).

In a way, David is presenting his arguments to God in connection with his requests.

A. The first is: the character of God (v. 4).

He is a righteous God. He is holy. There is no sin in Him, and He is displeased, not pleased with wickedness. And so David felt assured that what burdened himself was also of concern to God.

God, being what He is, brought David to his second argument:

B. His attitude toward sinners (v. 5).

Here is a good verse for those people to answer who say that God loves sinners, but hates their sin. David said that He hates "all workers of iniquity," and that they could not stand in his sight. How far can God see?

We had this emphasis in Psa. 1:4-6.

C. His purpose toward sinners (v. 6).

This was David's third reason for coming to the Lord with his petitions. Perhaps his thought here was of final judgment.

We are inclined to feel that God overlooks sin now, but will judge it later. David did not believe that. Perhaps the reason that we do not see the hand of God against sinners more is because we do not pray about it as David prayed.

Finally we come to the main petitions of David's prayer. There are three of them, and they are easy to see as we read the last six verses:

- 1) How David prayed for himself (vv. 7-9).
- 2) How David prayed about his enemies (v. 10).
- 3) How David prayed for all of the people of God (vv. 11, 12).

III. DAVID'S PETITIONS IN PRAYER (Psa. 5:11, 12).

A. How David prayed for himself (vv. 7-9).

Will you notice that this request comes first?

How did he come to the Lord?

- 1) "In the multitude of thy mercy."
- 2) "In thy fear." (Both of these are in v. 7.)

What did he come to do first? To worship "toward thy holy temple." This also is in v. 7.

What did he need? Guidance. See v. 8.

Why did he need guidance? See v. 9. Some of these words Paul used in Rom. 3:13 to describe the utter depravity of the human heart. David was as much in danger from their deceitful hearts as we was from their weapons. He wanted to know God's way.

What a prayer! We show something about our own hearts when we feel the need to pray for ourselves first.

B. How David prayed about his enemies (v. 10).

Note the last statement first: "for they have rebelled against thee." This was David's greatest burden about what his enemies were doing. They were opposing the will of God. David was jealous for God's glory. It was almost like David were not even involved.

"Destroy" can be translated, hold them guilty.

C. How David prayed for all of the people of God (vv. 11, 12).

David was not just seeking an easy time for himself, but he was concerned about how God's blessing would result in blessing for all of the saints.

He was not praying that he might be vindicated, but that the people would give God the glory, rejoicing in Him, shouting for joy!

David was just as convinced that God would bless the

righteous as he was that God would judge the wicked, for He is a God of righteousness.

Concl: Obviously David was a man who really loved God. He was jealous for God's glory, not his own. He wanted to see the purposes of God accomplished, not those of wicked men. And so he prayed.

After all, this is the way the Lord taught His disciples to pray:
Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"
(Matt. 6:9b, 10).

What an important lesson in prayer this is! It certainly explains why David could be so docile in his behavior, yet so strong in his prayers. He was not seeking His comfort, but he was seeking God's glory.

We surely cannot ignore this when we think about praying within the will of God.