

The Psalms: God's Gift Of Music

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1. Introduction

1.1 DVD: Psalms of David, "The Battle Scene"

1.2 Music

- a. Unique gift of God to the body of believers
 1. Other religions do not have
 2. From very beginning expressed our hearts longing in songs (at Red Sea)
- b. Music: allows us to pour out our hearts to God.

1.3 Psalms

- a. Their Nature
 1. rest of Bible is God speaking to us
 2. The Psalms are men speaking to God
 3. Many written by a man: "whose heart was after God"
 4. In reading, we see
 - we are not alone/unique: others have felt the same way.
 - how others have dealt with similar situations
 5. not just "MS certified". "God Certified". Show us what is acceptable for us to say to God. Confidence that what we are saying is acceptable to God.
- b. How do we approach the Psalms?
 1. Clearly, different from the way we say read and study Romans 1
 2. They are meant to be sung!
 3. Suggestion:
 - Read: My situation?
 - If Yes, Meditate,
 - Expropriate: Make them our words.
 - Compose music & sing...
- c. How to preach on the Psalms?
 1. Clearly not like Romans 1
 2. We are going to look at 3 Psalms and apply this method

2. Psalm 60

2.1 "Selah" means stop and think, meditate, expropriate, sing...

2.2 The Situation

- a. Rare: given actual situation in David's life: a battlefield defeat
- b. Expression of his feelings: deserted by God.
- c. Belief: He is doing what God has commanded him to do. He entered situation in obedience to God.

2.3 Are we in a similar situation?

- a. Believe we have done as God wanted us to do
- b. Results are not as expected and feel deserted by God.
- c. I have been: Marriage...My wife and I do not see eye-to-eye e.g. place of service: Liaoning, China. only recently come to accept: perhaps God wants me to minister in Taiwan (this has provided a great relief)

2.4 Read on: Meditate

- a. Cry to God
- b. Receive God's promise of ultimate success with joy!
- c. Doubt: God didn't help last time.
- d. Confess need God
- e. Promise to rely only on God (maybe last time did not rely on God but tried to do God's work relying on people: Zhang-Li mother)
- f. Confidence that God will help! (Faith)

2.5 Expropriate

- a. forgive for doing God's work in my way.
- b. rely on God in faith to continue doing his work in his way.

2.6 Sing

- a. Through our God, we shall do valiantly.

3. Psalm 61

3.1 The Situation

- a. Confusion - need to see the "BIG picture"
 1. picture of being in forest and cannot see way ahead. But if could stand on big rock could see over the trees.
- b. Look back at past: See God's faithfulness.
- c. Now I just want to be hugged by God (picture of a little child running to mommy or daddy: I am confused, I don't know what to do!)

3.2 Are we in a similar situation?

- a. Do we feel like this? We can't see where to go, we are confused. IF yes continue....
- b. looking at past we see God's work in our lives and take some comfort.

3.3 Read on: Meditate

- a. God Answers him: (use of he to refer to future)
 - 1. He will not die now
 - 2. God will not forsake him
- b. Respond in faith: He believes God, even though he cannot see the way.

3.4 Expropriate:

- a. help me to turn to you and may I have faith like David when you speak the future.

4. Psalm 62

4.1 Observe Structure

- a. 3 Stanzas in this Psalm
- b. Repeated Chorus

4.2 Situation (Stanza 1)

- a. Know what to do in my mind
 - 1. Talk to myself: Think about God and rely on God
 - 2. I know God is reliable.
- b. But I look at my situation.
 - 1. enemies close by : so much pressure.
 - 2. who speaks truth? (leader problem) --> feel overwhelmed

4.3 Am I in a similar situation?

- a. Know the truth in my mind
- b. but my situation is different...

4.4 Meditate/Expropriate/Sing (Stanza 1)

- a. Good idea to speak to self orally and tell you hear (Oswald J Sanders, "Spiritual Depression" writes that this is one key aspect to break out of spiritual depression.
- b. Once we are with the Author then we can continue (if this is our situation it is easy)

4.5 Read on Meditate, Expropriate, Sing (Stanza 2)

- a. Talk to myself again
- b. This time look at God and meditate on him.
- c. Once we are with the Author then we can continue (this is not easy)

4.6 Read on Meditate , Expropriate, Sing (Stanza 3)

- a. See the real situation for man
- b. It doesn't matter if high or low.
- c. It is God who has the power

5. Conclusions

5.1 Through the Psalms we see:

- a. We are not alone/unique, others have felt the same way
- b. How others have dealt with similar situations

5.2 “God Certified” : we can express our emotions to God!

5.3 Thank God for the Psalms

5.4 Suggestion how to approach.