

Psalm 25 - Divine Guidance

Author Max Lucado shares a true story about a parakeet named Chippie, who had a very bad day.

A) Chippie was a chatty parakeet who really liked to sing- until this fateful day.

B) It all began when the Chippie's owner decided to clean his cage with a vacuum cleaner with Chippie still in the cage.

C) She was almost finished when the phone rang, so she turned around to answer it. Before she knew it, Chippie was gone.

1) Sucked right into the Vacuum cleaner

In a panic, she unsnapped the top of the vacuum and ripped open the bag.

A) There was Chippie, covered in dirt and gasping for air.

B) She RUSHED him to the bathroom and stuck him under the faucet to rinse him off

C) Then realizing that Chippie was cold and wet, she blasted the little bird with her hair dryer.

Chippie never knew what hit him.

A) One minute he was sitting comfortably in his cage singing - the next he sucked in washed up and blown over!

B) Well His owner was asked a few days later, how Chippie was recovering.

C) "Well," she replied, "Chippie doesn't sing much anymore. He just sits and stares."

1) Chippie wasn't Chipper any More

Has the song been sucked out of your heart?

A) David could relate to that - Psalm 25 is another Psalm of David

B) Although scholars are uncertain of its time frame, most believe it was written during the rebellion and overthrow of the Kingdom by David son Absalom.

C) In the 2nd half of the Psalm we get a glimpse of the PAIN that David was going through

David's pain

- **His Difficulty** (25:15) In a Net feeling trapped on all sides
- **His Desolation** (25:16) He feels deserted and afflicted

His Key advisor Ahithophel joined Absalom major betrayal and stab in the back

- **His Distress** (25:17,18) His troubles are feeling larger than life (YOU)
- **His Danger** (25:19) His enemies are on every side
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Life has a way of knocking us around -

A) Betrayals can feel like a sucker punch that not only knocks the wind out of you - **THE LIFE OUT OF YOU!**

B) Maybe you feel that way - Sucked in washed up and blown over

1) Beat up - knocked down - but not quite knocked out

C) Tempted to give up - tempted to tune out - tempted to throw in the towel

1) Get bitter - lose focus - lose hope - live as the perpetual victim

In those times - What we really need is Guidance - get back on our feet - press forward.

A) In Psalm 25 V.1-14 David gives us some great principles for seeking guidance - **UNPACK THIS TODAY**

B) Begins with Prayer - David's Prayer for Guidance

1. Lord, Protect Me (25:1-3)

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 2 O my God, I trust in You;

Let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me.

3 Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.

I lift up my SOUL

A) If you were with us last week at first service - My Son Aaron taught and **did an excellent job of explaining the word SOUL**

B)Soul comes from the Hebrew word Nephesh - used over 700 times in the OT

1)Nephesh has been translated as **THROAT**

C)Which seems weird to us at first - but think about what your throat allows you to do -

1)**Breathe** - Air passes through the throat

2)**Eat** - Food passes through the throat -

3)**Drink** - liquid thru the throat

D)The Throat is essential to keeping you alive

So this word soul has also been translated - Your life, your heart your very being.

A)So when David says - I lift up my soul - he is saying - all that I am Lord - **I lift up to you and place in your hands.**

B)We are talking total trust! Total vulnerability

C)It is a vulnerable thing to place your life in the hands of another - takes a lot of trust

1)I have a hard time with that in certain things -

D)Example: **I don't want to ride on the back of a motorcycle when someone else is driving.**

Being At their mercy - I don't like that

A)they can ride on the back with me - but I don't want to ride on the back with them - lack trust

B)OR THE FALL BACK GAME NO THANK YOU - **DROPPED**

C)Now if you have been burned by others - it makes it even harder to make yourself vulnerable

1)don't want to be dropped again? RIGHT ?

And we can carry that over mentality into our relationship with God

A)But even though David had experienced a lot of betrayal and hurt from others -

B)he is still ready to make himself totally vulnerable with God - Why?

C)David's willingness to lift up his soul to God - place his very being in his hands - **was based on RELATIONSHIP**

I lift up **my soul**. 2 O **my God**, I trust in You;

A)MY GOD - not just God - my God -

B)David voiced a similar sentiment in Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd - not just a shepherd OR the shepherd - he is MY shepherd

C)How many people can recite Psalm 23 - Popular Psalm

Know the Psalm he knows the shepherd

Can you say of Jesus - He is MY GOD?

A)Are you living in relationship with Him

B)That is how Jesus described eternal life: John 17:3

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent

C)**Know = Ginosko** - to know intimately as in a relationship -

D)Not just knowing about him - knowing Bible verses and truths - it is knowing Him - living in an intimate relationship with him.

1)TODAY

So David's willingness to lift up his soul was based on a relationship with God as well as God's proven track record

A)David in the Psalms refers to God as his Rock, His strength, His fortress, His Refuge - **PROVEN**

B)NOTICE HOW DAVID - reiterates this Cry for protection at the end of this Psalm V.20 **Keep my soul**, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. ²¹Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You. Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all their troubles!

So first David asked the Lord to Protect him

A)Lord, Pilot me V4-5 - 2 principles for Divine guidance

B)1st He Was willing to Be Led (25:4,5)

Show me Your ways, O Lord; **Teach me** Your paths. **Lead me** in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.

C)DAVID was willing to be led - he was asking to be led - Go wherever God wanted

Have you ever picked up one of those travel Brochures on your way out of Costco?

A)Colorful Photos enticing you to buy into some exciting getaway.

B)A Safari in Botswana - Or Huts on the water at Bora Bora- in Tahiti

C)London or Paris - Your vacation dream is just a click away!

God does not hand out brochures.

A)God does not say, "Follow Me and I'll give you an exotic and an exciting experience;

B)follow Me and I'll guarantee you good health and money in the bank."

C)God says: **"Follow Me no matter what!"**

Jesus said - In this world you WILL HAVE TRIBULATION.... Good cheer..

A)Jesus told his disciples I am sending you out as lambs among wolves!

B)Wolves eat LAMBS

C)But Jesus also said - **I will never leave you- nor forsake you**

1)As Christ followers we are not immune to danger - difficulties - but we don't go through them ALONE

D)He promises to stand with us in the fire - to be there in the midst of the storm -

1)to help us make it to the other side.

He asks us to follow him NO MATTER WHAT!

A)After the Resurrection - Jesus was meeting with his disciples - **and he started to tell Peter all the difficulty he was going to face as his follower.**

B)JESUS WAS Wanting to prepare Peter

C)Peter points to John - says - Ok Lord what about him - what is he going to go through -

1)Jesus response: Don't you worry about John - what is it to you what happens to him - **YOU FOLLOW ME**

Each one of us has our own journey with Jesus -

A)Sometimes it can seem like - our path is a lot more difficult than someone else's - **YOU FOLLOW ME**

B)More difficulty? More pain? More opportunity to be used in a greater capacity.

Notice, David says, Show me ...ways "Lead me in YOUR truth, and teach me."

A)Important Insight - Guidance is connected to the Word of God:

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

B)How can a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed according to Your word.

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. PSA 119:9, 11

C)PC Smith - **This book will keep you from sin - but sin will keep you from this book**

As a Pastor I meet people all the time who are seeking guidance - but who ignore or reject what God's Word says!

A)I can't do that - or I don't agree with that - or that doesn't work for me

B)They ignore God's word or they reject God's word - and live lives full of pain and misery - for choices that go against God's word

1)Unequally yoked - "this will be the exception - NOPE

C)Premarital sex - but we love each other - getting married - heart break

D)Good stewards - get rich quick schemes - debt and despair

E)For the person who is living according to God's word - this is what they discover - **MAKES SENSE - BRINGS LIFE**

⁵⁴ Your statutes have been my songs, in the house of my pilgrimage Psalm 119:54

So David was willing to be led - he sought guidance from the word of God

#2 He was willing to WAIT to be led - V.5 On You I wait all the day.

A)Biggest problem - we want everything now!!!! **TODAY -**

B) An important principle of guidance is that God is never in a hurry.

1) God always answers prayer - YES / NO/ WAIT

C) **WAIT is the hardest one** - Josiah - Spiderman non stop - Popi... - Waiting is hard for a 4 yr old

D) Also can be hard for us too - This is where a lot of us break down; we are impatient so we act without God's guidance

1) and then complain when things go wrong.

Often when facing an important decision we will find that everything is cloudy at first.

A) The Guidance we are seeking will come only as we wait.

B) It is Satan who says: **"Hurry! Act now! It's now or never! If you miss this you'll miss God's will."**

C) Satan guides by impulse; God guides us as we wait.

We can liken guidance to a glass filled with cloudy water.

A) If we wait, the sediment will sink to the bottom and the water will become clear.

B) God cannot lead us if we are rushed and hurried, running here, there, everywhere—

1) always responding to pressure.

C) We must Learn to wait

1) David was **wanting, willing, and waiting** to be led.

David Prays Lord protect me - Lord Pilot me

A) Then He asked the **Lord to Pardon him** V.6-7,11

Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindness, For they are from of old. For **Your goodness' sake**, O Lord. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your mercy remember me, for **Your goodness' sake**, O LORD. / **V.11** For **Your name's sake**, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

B) David knew better than many that sin in the life makes it impossible for God to lead and direct.

1) Clouds the communication

C) David - knew that Sin causes a wedge in his relationship with God -

1) so he wanted to make sure his heart was right with the Lord.

D) David's Prayer is based on his understanding of God's goodness, mercy and lovingkindness -

1) He knows that God is Kind and compassionate

E) God takes pleasure in forgiving and restoring -

1) When there is true repentance - **turning from and turning to**

But David is not going to take the Grace of God for granted!

A) The Prerequisite For Divine Guidance.

B) #1 A Right Attitude Toward the Lord V.12-14
12 Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. 13 He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth.

14 The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.

C) What is the proper attitude that we need in order to be led by the Lord?

1) Being men and women who fear the Lord

The Bible says that **"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."**

A) The Fear of the Lord is NOT being AFRAID OF GOD -

B) But it is living with a sense of awe and reverence for who God is.

The fear of the Lord – when we realize that He is God and we are not!

A) The fear of the Lord is when we realize that I am not the measure of all things –

B) But I am being measured by a God who is the measure of all things

C) Which means It is death to our narcissistic egos and self-assured opinions

The fear of the Lord involves an understanding that God can absolutely crush me.

A) But instead he loves me!

B) In Jesus He accepts me – that blows me away

C) It motivates me to want to live to please him

1) Not doing anything that would cause him grief

D) Motivates me to walk in Holiness – because he is altogether holy and I want to be like Him

1) Pre-occupied with His glory

Notice how David frames this in V.8-10

8 Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore, He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

A heart of Humble Submission - in willing to be led by Him

A) You are the Lord - not me - He is < than I -

Lead me Lord - I am yielded to you! Yielded to your word

10 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

B) All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth

C) John 1:12 And we beheld his glory the glory..... full of grace and truth

D) His Glory

When we think of finding out God's will we tend to think primarily in terms of a career or of some complication which has arisen;

A) God thinks primarily in terms of character.

B) He has given us many specifics along this line.

C) If we get our characters in line with God's Word then our questions regarding careers and our complications will soon be resolved.

D) Jesus put it this way: But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33