

Psalm 144 - A Cry of Dependency

One of the things that I have noticed with people is this:

A) A little bit of success can really go to someone's head.

B) I have seen it in Ministry- Pastors who started off so humble but experience a little bit of success – growth

C) Suddenly they become arrogant and start thinking the blessing that is coming to the church is because of them and not God. – Sad

D) I have definitely seen it in Athletics – and in the business world

1) Success often breeds pride!

So you would think that if there was anyone who would be a Candidate to fall into that trap –

A) It would have been David especially after his HUGE victory over Goliath!

B) But what we see in David is the opposite-

1) David leans even harder into his reliance and dependency upon God

David's Continued Dependency upon God

C) Psalm 144 is a Psalm David penned after his Victory over Goliath and throughout the Psalm

1) David is expressing his faith and trust in the Lord.

V.1 Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle—

A) Right off the bat – we see that David is NOT praising his skill with the sling shot that brought the Victory

B) But it was God who did that – He is the one who trains my hands for war!

C) Notice that the word trains is in the present tense: Not trained past tense but trains –

1) present tense – ongoing

D) Love this insight from David Guzik – “If a man or woman feels that God is training him or her to use spiritual weapons – such as the sword of the Spirit, the word of God – then training must always

continue. It is never “who trained my hands for war,” but always in the present: who trains my hands for war.”

David's Personal view of God

A) Notice that David is extremely personal as he confesses who he found God to be

2 My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.

Martin Luther used to say that true religion is to be found in personal pronouns. He meant that it is only when we are able to speak of God as our God and call Jesus our Savior that Christianity becomes more than mere ideas and is truly real for us.

David uses these personal terms to describe his relationship with God

A) He is My Rock, My lovingkindness, my fortress, My high tower, my deliverer, And My shield

B) These terms used express How David Saw God as his everything!

C) These first two verses set an EXALTED TONE for this Psalm and depict how David expressed his dependency upon God.

The phrase My Lovingkindness also speaks of an intimate tone – which was such a key to David's life

A) He didn't just know God from a distance or in theory or in one aspect

B) He was a young man who was in love with God – who had a heart beat for God.

C) Because of his High View of God – David had a right view of man!

V.3 Lord, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him? 4 Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow.

One of the things I love about where we live is being so close to the beach.

A) I love to sit down at the beach at look out at the vast ocean.

B) Look at this picture of the Globe – look how much of it is water.

C)What keeps the water from Enveloping the land? – God does

Then you look at this picture of the galaxies – the earth is just a tiny speck in the midst of all of that.

A)There are 3.2 Trillion planets in the Milky way Galaxy – earth is just one

B)Relatively small one – Earth's circumference is about 25,000 miles

C)Milky way Galaxy is about 70 trillion times bigger than the earth.

Picture of earth in the Milky Way- You are here

Man is just a tiny dot in the midst of this planet – tiny dot in the cosmos

A)God spoke all of that into existence and God sustains it all by the word of Power - Incredible.

B)We sometimes want to think the world revolves around us –

C)Social media we are nothing in the midst of this planet – the Cosmos

The More you understand the Vastness of the Universe – God holds it all in the Span of his Hand
A)You understand David's heart – Who is man that you are mindful of him

Who I am Lord that you even think about me

B)But the reality is He does- God is intimately acquainted with all of your ways

1)God is so intimately acquainted with you he knows the number of hairs on your head.

C)God thoughts for you outnumber the sands – thoughts of good not evil to give you a future and a hope

It is easy to think that God would be too busy for us
A)We are too insignificant for him to waste time and energy on us

B)Nothing could be further from the Truth – to think that not only is a dig toward the heart of God –
1)but also the capacity of God.

B)He is so incredible – and so Loving he can be intimately associated and involved in every one of our lives AT ONCE

C)I can't do that -you can't do that – I am also Juggling relationships –

1)who is going to get my time and attention today

D)God is not limited like us.

So David is just blown away that this incredible God – majestic God would take an interest in his life

A)David's View of God caused him to long for more of God – For God to express his glory and power in his life

B)And in the life of the nation of Israel

5 Bow down Your heavens, O Lord, and come down; Touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. 6 Flash forth lightning and scatter them; Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them.

C)This is probably a reference to that very important time in Israel's history when they were camped before MT Siani

1)In the book of Exodus – wilderness

They camped before Mt Siani – and God descended upon the MT in a Cloud and the Mt was filled with Smoke

A)It was a visible display of the Glory of God – the Kabod the weightiness of God

B)So glorious – so Holy – so Powerful that if anyone came near the base of the MT they would die

C)David is longing for God to show his glory and strength in Israel in that way again.

D)He seems to realize that is what the nation needed at this time.

1)For God to show up strong on their behalf

This is something that I think is hard for us who live in America to Understand and relate to.

A)As a nation we have been a Super power for so long –

B)We are a nation that is feared and respected in so many parts of the World

C)But at the time of the writing of this Psalm – Israel was anything but that

They were small and insignificant –

A)still trying to find their way and to possess this land that God had for them

B)They were surrounded by enemies who seemed way more established and stronger than they were.

C)Often outgunned and out manned – So they need their God to show himself strong on their behalf.

We read back in 1 Samuel 13 it tells us that only King Saul and his son Jonathan had a sword and spear in hand

A)All the other men in the army of Israel were armed with sticks and clubs and farm stuff

B)It was only as the Lord helped them defeat an army that they were able to gain more swords and spears.

C)So David is writing from that perspective: If God doesn't show up we are doomed – we are a mess.

D)David's view of God led him to Trust God and not man V.7-8

7 Stretch out Your hand from above;
Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters,
From the hand of foreigners, 8 Whose mouth speaks
lying words,
And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

Now Just like in our courtrooms today – you would swear by raising your right hand.

A)But the Right hand of the enemy – the words of the enemy was full of deceit and lies.

B)What they needed was God's protection and God's deliverance

C)Man is untrustworthy – but God is fully trustworthy and worthy of all praise

To which David proclaims

9 I will sing a new song to You, O God;
On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You,
A)I love this – David says this often – I will sing a new song

B)The greatness of God inspires new songs - New songs speaks of Freshness in his worship

C)His worship was getting stale and routine – It was full of Fresh expressions of praise to God

D)New victories and new deliverance required a new song.

I love it when our worship leaders bring a new song to the church

A)Always wondering what Song will be our new Anthem

B)Through the years there have been these seasons where God uses a song in the life of his church

C)Whenever it is sung – the body immediately erupts into praise

God uses it in the Life of a church – season they are going through

A)Be praying for our worship leaders – we are in need of a new Song – a fresh anthem

B)David was caught up in singing old songs –

C)his relationship with God was progressive – producing new songs

1)new expressions of gratitude to his King

C)He sang a new song to 10 The One who gives salvation to kings, Who delivers David His servant From the deadly sword.

11 Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners,
Whose mouth speaks lying words,
And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood—
12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth;
That our daughters may be as pillars,
Sculptured in palace style;

13 That our barns may be full,
Supplying all kinds of produce;
That our sheep may bring forth thousands
And ten thousands in our fields;

14 That our oxen may be well laden;
That there be no breaking in or going out;
That there be no outcry in our streets.

This is quite remarkable to me that as a Young man David understood that the Future of the nation rested in God's hands

A) If the young men and women were going to grow strong and become pillars

B) it was going to be at the hand of the Lord.

C) If the land was going to produce so that the barns would be full

1) it was going to come through God's blessings

D) If their herds of sheep and Oxen were going to be multiplied

1) it wasn't going to be in their ingenuity or even hard work to make Israel Great

E) It was going to come from the TOUCH OF THE ALMIGHTY

THE CRY V.11 Rescue me – Rescue us –

A) That is the only way that we get established

Notice How David ends

15 Happy are the people who are in such a state;

Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!

As we close tonight – turn our hearts once again to worship

A) Reflect on God's greatness and majesty –

B) Creator Sustainer

C) Reflect on His intimacy – He knows you by Name

Cry out to Him – rescue us

A) From OUR enemies

B) RESCUE US FROM OURSELVES