

Sunday, Sept 26, 2021

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul

Text: Psalm 25

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to use Psalm 25 as a personal source of encouragement and guidance in their personal prayer life.

Introduction:

Last week's devotional was John 17, The Lord's Prayer:

1. The LORD Prays for Himself
2. The LORD Prays for the Eleven
3. The LORD Prays for All Believers

~ This Psalm (25) has often been an inspiration and a friend to me in times of pain, confusion and uncertainty. In some strange way it has been a comfort to read King David's words and think that God said David was a man after His own heart (1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22); and yet he had failings and down times. How the prayers recorded in Psalm 25 have lifted me.

~ vs. 1, "To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul."

~ vs. 2, David makes a declaration of trust, "O my God, in you I trust;"

~ vs. 3, David makes a declaration of action, "Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame,"

1. Prayer of DESIRE:

Psalm 25:4 - 5

~ vs. 4, "Make me to know your ways, O LORD,"

Way here is the Hebrew word derek: A. road, way, path; B. journey; C. direction; D. manner, habit, way; E. of course of life; F. moral character

~ vs. 4, "teach me your paths."

Paths here is the Hebrew word orah: A. path, road; B. the path, way, passing of life; C. way of living; D. traveller, wayfarer

~ vs. 5, "Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation, for you I wait all the day long."

Compare with Romans 8:4, "in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled, in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

Truth in the Hebrew is 'emet; note from Spirit Filled Life Bible (page 774), "Curiously 'emet' is spelled with the first, middle, and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet; thus the rabbis concluded that truth upholds the first and last of God's creation, and everything in between."

2. Prayer of FAITH:

Psalm 25:6 - 7

~ vs. 6, "Remember your mercy, O LORD,"

Lamentations 3:22 - 26, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; (23) they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness. (24) "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." (25) The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. (26) It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."

Ephesians 2:4, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,"

Titus 3:5, "he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior."

~ vs. 6, "and your steadfast love, for they have been from old."

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

~ vs. 7, "Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD."

Sin is missing the mark; transgression means rebellion.

3. Prayer of CONFESSION:

Psalm 25:8 - 10

~ vs. 8, "Good and upright is the LORD, therefore he instructs sinners in the way."

See verse 4

Matthew 28:19 - 20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

~ vs. 9, "He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way."

The main idea or concept in the word "humble" is to have a teachable soul.

James 4:6, "But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.""

~ vs. 10, "All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies."

NOTICE that there is a condition!

4. Prayer of THANKSGIVING:

Psalm 25:11 - 15

~ vs. 11, "For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great."

The forgiveness of sins is only through Jesus Christ; and it is in His name for it is His name at stake!

~ vs. 12, "Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose."

NOTICE that again there is a condition!

~ vs. 13, "His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land."

What a PROMISE!

~ vs. 14, "The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.",
O Lord that is my desire!!!

~ vs. 15, "My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net."

Again...what a PROMISE!

Conclusion:

This Psalm has often been source of great encouragement to me and has always served as a yardstick (meterstick) to measure my own private prayer life. May it also become a source of joy and guidance to YOU!