

Tears In A Bottle

2020 Summer Series In Psalms

Psalm 56 (ESV) — TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO THE DOVE ON FAR-OFF TEREBINTHS. A MIKTAM OF DAVID, WHEN THE PHILISTINES SEIZED HIM IN GATH. **1** Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; **2** my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly. **3** When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. **4** In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? **5** All day long they injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil. **6** They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps, as they have waited for my life. **7** For their crime will they escape? In wrath cast down the peoples, O God! **8** You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book? **9** Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me. **10** In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, **11** in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? **12** I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you. **13** For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

I. Stanza 1 – Verses 1-4

A. The voice of fear (1-2)

Luke 18:13 (ESV) — **13** But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV) — **15** The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

2 Timothy 1:9 (ESV) — **9** who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

Ephesians 2:3–7 (ESV) — **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 102:17 (ESV) — **17** he regards the prayer of the destitute and does not despise their prayer.

Psalm 141:8 (ESV) — **8** But my eyes are toward you, O GOD, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!

B. The voice of faith (3-4) – the chorus

Psalm 23:4–5 (ESV) — **4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psalm 18:4–6 (ESV) — **4** The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; **5** the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. **6** In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

Psalm 18:19 (ESV) — **19** He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

Song of Solomon 2:1–3 (ESV) — **1** I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. **2** As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women. **3** As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

Psalm 12:6–7 (ESV) — **6** The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. **7** You, O LORD, will keep them; you will guard us from this generation forever.

Psalm 18:30 (ESV) — **30** This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 33:4–6 (ESV) — **4** For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. **5** He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. **6** By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

Hebrews 4:12–13 (ESV) — **12** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Psalm 138:2 (ESV) — **2** I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

Proverbs 3:5–10 (ESV) — **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. **7** Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. **8** It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. **9** Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; **10** then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Hebrews 13:5–6 (ESV) — **5** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” **6** So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

II. Stanza 2 – Verses 5-11

A. The voice of fear (5-7)

Proverbs 19:5 (ESV) — **5** A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.

Romans 2:3 (ESV) — **3** Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (ESV) — **10** and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Revelation 6:16–17 (ESV) — **16** calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, **17** for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

B. The voice of faith (8-11) – the chorus

Malachi 3:16 (ESV) — **16** Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

Luke 7:37–38 (ESV) — **37** And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, **38** and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

Mark 9:24 (ESV) — **24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

Acts 20:19–20 (ESV) — **19** serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; **20** how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

Hebrews 5:7–9 (ESV) — **7** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. **8** Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. **9** And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Romans 15:4 (ESV) — **4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Malachi 3:16 (ESV) — **16** Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

1 Peter 5:7 (ESV) — **7** casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Romans 8:26–27 (ESV) — **26** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:28–32 (ESV) — **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. **31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:38–39 (ESV) — **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

III. Closing Thoughts - Actions Of Faith (Verses 12-13)

Psalm 116:1–2 (ESV) — **1** I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. **2** Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Psalm 116:12–14 (ESV) — **12** What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? **13** I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, **14** I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

1 Peter 2:7–9 (ESV) — **7** So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” **8** and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. **9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 1:8–11 (ESV) — **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **10** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, **11** inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

John 8:12 (ESV) — **12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”