

Evening Sermon Outline – August 25, 2019

“O Taste and See” Psalm 34

- I. *A glorious Psalm commemorating a strange, humiliating circumstance without going into details –*

TITLE.—A Psalm of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed.

We may learn from his example not to parade our sins before others, as certain vainglorious professors are wont to do who seem as proud of their sins ... David played the fool with singular dexterity, but he was not so real a fool as to sing of his own exploits of folly.”

C.H. Spurgeon

We do not need to go into detail about the sins God saves us from, I Samuel 21 speaks of David pretending to be insane ... to escape Abimelech’s wrath.

David had been chased by Saul, into another enemy’s clutches, it was a low point in his life. Yet, here (in this Psalm) we have another call to praise God, God deserves our praise even at such low points –

- II. *Praising God is an everyday, all the time, continual kind of thing -*

- 1 **I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Psalm 34:1**

Verse 1.—“I will bless the Lord at all times.” Mr. Bradford, martyr, speaking of Queen Mary, at whose cruel mercy he then lay, said, If the queen be pleased to release me, I will thank her; if she will imprison me, I will thank her; if she will burn me, I will thank her, etc. So saith a believing soul: Let God do with me what he will, I will be thankful.—Samuel Clarke

- III. *Our boast should be in God; definitely not in our sin -*

- 2 **My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Psalm 34:2**

- IV. *We get together to Praise Him –*

- 3 **Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. Psalm 34:3**

- V. *David’s experience of the LORD’s help was / is a common one -*

⁴ **I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.** ⁵ **They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed.** ⁶ **This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.** ⁷ **The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. Psalm 34:4-7**

Two things David did:

1. *He acted like a crazy man*
2. *He sought the LORD*

Which was important? Which brought deliverance?

Note, it says “Angel” not angels (plural) of the LORD, what does this mean? The Angel of the LORD, is our Lord Jesus Christ. He is big enough to surround and deliver us all by himself!

- VI. *Taste and see -*

⁸ **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8**

1. *Taste is and intimate thing, “and see” and mean and realize for yourself that the LORD is good! David is inviting his hearers to experiential relationship with God!*
2. *Blessed – truly and eternally happy!*

Verse 8.—“Taste and see.” There are some things, especially in the depths of the religious life, which can only be understood by being experienced, and which even then are incapable of being adequately embodied in words. Thomas Binney

VII. A call to fear / reverence God -

⁹ Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! Psalm 34:9 A

1. A reason for fearing the LORD –

A. No want -

There is no want to those who fear Him. Psalm 34:9 B

B. Even the most capable of creatures will lack, but not those who seek the LORD -

¹⁰ The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*. Psalm 34:10

Men can be like beasts, even like lions, but that is not God's will for His people -

7 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head *while* on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. ² Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. ³ And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. ⁴ The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it. ⁵ "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!' Daniel 7:1-5

2. Instruction about the fear of the LORD -

¹¹ Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Psalm 34:11

A. The fear of the LORD is the way of life-

¹² Who *is* the man *who* desires life, And loves *many* days, that he may see good?

B. The fear of the LORD will fix your speech and actions -

¹³ Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.

¹⁴ Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. Psalm 34:13-14

It is a true saying, backed by Scripture, actions speak louder than Words – ¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:18 Yet God requires both to be right!

VIII. Remember the LORD is looking for, and ready to hear the righteous, but set against the wicked –

1. The Lord's attention, for good, is devoted to the righteous, and for the destruction of the wicked -

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. ¹⁶ The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

A. Eyes to see and care for

B. Ears to hear prayer

C. An angry face to destroy the wicked –

¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the **face** of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! Revelation 6:16

2. Here is the LORD hearing, delivering -

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. Psalm 34:17

3. Here is who the LORD is near and saves -

¹⁸ The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Psalm 34:18

4. Here is a prophecy about Christ -

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. ²⁰ He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. Psalm 34:19-20

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous." Thus are they made like Jesus their covenant Head. Scripture does not flatter us like the story books with the idea that goodness will secure us from trouble; on the contrary, we are again and again warned to expect tribulation while we are in this body. Our afflictions come from all points of the compass, and are as many and as tormenting as the mosquitoes of the tropics.

C.H. Spurgeon

5. Here is the contrast again -

²¹ Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. ²² The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned. Psalm 34:21

Arnold Brevick