
Restored Praise

Psalm 30

Introduction

Lessons from the past are lessons that need to last. When the children of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land, Moses preached Deuteronomy. They were to remember the experiences of wilderness wandering and how God took care of them; lest they fall into temptation and a snare of the enemy.

One of these lessons is of interest to the message for today. We see in Deuteronomy 8-10 the dangers of prosperity. The experience of God's care in the wilderness when the people of Israel were unable to help themselves taught them the lesson of humility. Through the Lord's providential discipline, they were to remember what it was like and how completely reliant they were upon Him for everything. All the experiences of the past would underscore the fact that Israel was dependent on Yahweh for care, provision, protection and forgiveness. To forget these facts was to display ingratitude and self-promoting, self-relying pride.

How would this lesson be tested? When would the children of Israel know whether or not they took this lesson to heart? The answer is in the context of prosperity. When they came into the land flowing with milk and honey how would they respond?

How do we respond when things are going well? What are we inclined to think when church is sweet and kids are great and the vacation was good and weather is fine? What is our tendency when the economy picks up and the church giving is up and the doctor gives us a "thumbs up"? What do we say to ourselves when prosperity is experienced?

Recap

Today we will hear the third part of the 4-part series titled "A call to Praise". Our first message taken from Ps. 113 tried to make clear what praise is. This gave a definition of and guided us toward a lifestyle of praise. In sum, we noticed that the LORD is matchless in majesty and mercy. Therefore, let us praise Him from now on and wherever we happen to be.

Last week we looked at a Psalm that talked about when praise weakens in our lives. What happens when praise disappears? The message taken from Ps.13 tried to make clear what's going on when life is hard and God seems far away. We found out that the problem was neither

in circumstances nor in the Lord. The problem was located in our hearts. When life is distressing and our view of God is distorted a change needs to occur. This change is in how we view God. And how that change comes about is by God intervening to give us clearer sight of who He really is. This gift of spiritual sight, we observed from the Ps., comes from God as a result of earnest and intentional prayer. In other words, we observed that when life is hard and God seems far away let us pray earnestly for renewed sight of Him. Then, our praise of Him will be restored.

We noticed that Ps.13 ended in a vow to praise the Lord. David knew that God would restore the song of deliverance to his heart. We left off last week with David's words, "I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me (cf. Ps.13:6). That vow to praise is now fulfilled in the psalm to which we will turn our attention this morning. What was promised in Ps.13 is carried out in Ps.30.

Today we enter our third message in the series "A Call to Praise". We will watch David fulfill what He promised to the Lord last week in Ps.13. But this message for today develops not as I thought it would. I simply thought that what he vowed in 13:6 could be found in another psalm. And then I was simply to find this psalm and preach what praise to God looks like after being restored. I was surprised what I found.

Please open your Bibles to Ps.30 as we look at David carrying out what he vowed.

A view of "Restored Praise"

Vv.1-5

A Confession to praise

Vv.1-3

As we begin this Psalm we initially come to an announcement or confession to praise the Lord. We see this in vv.1-3. Here we see David doing what we saw David promising to do last week in Ps.13:5-6. Something stupendous occurred in His life. And this stunning help was from the Lord. David, based on God's gracious intervention, announces that He will extol the Lord (or speak well of Him in front of anyone and everyone). The reasons for this are evident.

For his deliverance

First we see David praising the Lord for his deliverance.

Like the Psalm of lament last week, David recounts when he was in dire straits. He did what we learned to do last week. He cried out to God for help. And God answered his prayer. He delivered Him from death; up from the pit. Like a prisoner from a dungeon; like Joseph finally coming out of jail, David is restored! His great God intervened

and saved Him from his sin and sadness. His great God will not allow his foes to rejoice over him. Though his enemies might forecast how and when he will go back to his old sins, they are wrong as David said in v.1 “the Lord has not let my foes rejoice over me”. This is deliverance from. But he doesn’t stop there.

For our destiny

Notice also another reason for David praising the Lord. He describes briefly not simply a deliverance from something but a guiding to something. He alludes to his destination. David has been delivered from death and the pit. Observe now to what God has delivered him. Up out of “hell” and up to “heaven” if you will. David loves His Deliverer! Lifting high the Name of God for he has lifted David high above the stars. (express this joy in the assembly by talking about justification and adoption).

A Call to join in praise

Vv.4-5

So we see David responding to the Lord by speaking good and accurate and wonderful things about Him in the presence of people. This announcement, however, gives way to something else as we notice what he is doing in vv.4-5.

This 4-part series titled “A Call to Praise” has an aim higher than simply helping each of us to start or to be stimulated in praising the Lord. The aim of this series is to see Clearcreek Chapel so enamored with Jesus that we praise the Lord like we see David doing in vv.1-3. Ah, but more than this. This series aims to see more and more of us doing what David models for us in vv.4-5.

David could not keep the praise of God to himself. He felt that he could not extol God enough himself. He must enlist others in praise. He must urge others to join him in boasting excitedly about the Lord in public. This bold and extroverted joy was not painless however.

David alludes to God’s discipline over his wayward children in v.5. There are tears and pain and sorrow. Whether it is a plague falling upon Jerusalem or anguish in the hearts of Clearcreek Chapel, God disciplines his children. But look at what mercy we see in verse 5. God puts up his rod quickly when its work is done. Slow to anger and swift to end it is characteristic of God’s discipline in our lives. Short nights and joyful days cause our hearts to dance and tongues to sing. When our hearts wavering in distrust are disciplined and this discipline gives way to fresh views of God’s mercy found in Christ joy cannot keep quiet.

In his commentary on Isaiah 2:1-4, John Calvin said something amazing. “By these words he first declares that the godly will be filled with such *an argent desire to spread* the doctrines of religion, that every one *not satisfied with his own calling* and his personal knowledge will *desire to draw others* along with him. And nothing could be more inconsistent with *the nature of faith* than that deadness which would lead a man to disregard his brethren and to keep the light of knowledge choked up within his own breast”.

These thoughts on joy over Jesus and desire to draw others along with him are tied to the nature of faith. Saving faith, in other words, by necessity cannot stay to itself. It must be expressive. It must be expansive. Joy cannot keep quiet. It is inconceivable to think that a Christian can enjoy the banquet of God’s grace found in Jesus alone without happily enlisting others in the joy over His matchless majesty.

Could it be that a principle reason for weakness in discipleship and evangelism is seen precisely here? Is it reasonable to suggest that we are hushed in discipleship & evangelism when Christ appears far and faint to our hearts? When the breathtaking beauty of the contours of Christ found in Scripture are not lucid in our hearts, we have nothing to say. If joy cannot keep quiet, hopelessness cannot speak out. Christ must be visible to our hearts. The panorama of the perfections of the glorious King over all is made known in the Bible. Jesus’ cross-like death clearing the believer of the eternal prison term for sin is portrayed in Scripture. The tongue is loosed and the joy-produced words of the gospel are sounded forth when we realize and relish the splendor of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Beloved, to advance in our worship and praise and discipleship and evangelistic efforts let me advise us by the use of Ps.30:1-5. We are called to praise the Lord. We cannot do it on our own. We are utterly dependent upon God for clear eyes and joyful hearts and lively tongues. We saw last week and we see it again this morning that we are God-dependant for sight and delight.

Beloved, let us pray. Let us pick up our Bibles. Let us with our eye and ear see and savor Christ. Let us not be gagged through loss of sight leading to lack of delight. Let us behold His beauty. And then, we will enlist others to do the same.

A review of how it happens

Vv.6-12

Having viewed through David what a restored praise looks like, we now come to a curious part in the Psalm. It's as though David tilts his head and recounts for the reader what happened in his life that brought about vv.1-5. He now gives us a review of how it happened.

Before the discipline

Vv.6-7a

The Spirit of God allows us to peer into David's thinking. Starting with v.6 we see what David was struggling with and why he needed discipline.

"As for me, I said in my prosperity, 'I shall never be moved'". This self disclosure helps us to understand what condition David was in prior to discipline. He calls it prosperity. The Kingdom is doing well. His relationships are good. His bills are paid with discretionary money left over. The economy was good and the enemy was distant. He says, "I shall never be moved". What do you hear in these words? I hear a self-confident security rising out of his thoughts. He is comfortable. He is immovable. He has arrived. He is entering the comfort zone. And he likes it. He feels at home. Sleeping on the pillow of ease he forgets his true support.

Now keep reading. In the first part of v.7 he gives credit to God for this arrival but it is filled with pride. He tips his hat to God for the success He enjoys. But even in his credits one sees an overestimation of himself. "You made my mountain stand strong". Instead of comparing himself to a mountain maybe a molehill would have sufficed. As one puritan put it, "We never think too little of ourselves". Here is a depiction of pride amid prosperity. Here we see complacency after enjoying God's grace. And what does God think about this?

Under the discipline

Vv.7b-10

In vv.7b-10 we peer again into David's thinking. We see him under the discipline of the Lord. God will not have his people become complacent. Grace is a means to an end. We are not allowed to get fat on his grace. Grace used to develop self confidence (and a false sense of security) is an invitation to God's discipline. And we see this in vv.7-10

The discipline of the Lord talked about in the latter part of v.7 is frightening. He describes it as "you hid your face". Though the Lord does not abandon his people, he will withhold Himself from them to get their attention (ill. In Kroger with the kids. Hiding around another aisle to get Kara's attention).

Pray

Vv.8-10

You can see who took the initiative can't you? It is God who moves upon David to awaken him from self-centered comfort. And what are the results? In a God-caused dismay God desires God-dependant prayer. Prayer is better solace than Cain's building a city or Saul's seeking for music. Worldly amusements are a sorry prescription for a mind distracted and despairing when God hides his face. We must drop on our knees.

And how should we pray?

Its shape

Vv.8-9

Spreading a case before the Lord of love is the shape this prayer takes. Plead for God to become jealous for His glory. And what will make God's glory more conspicuous in our lives? Not when we are silent in self confidence! God is put on display in our lives when we are operating in accord with vv.5-6. You see, we praise what we prize. We call attention to the object of our affections. We want others to participate in the joy of the beauty. The Lord is then made much of. Not simply by one person but by the many. This is the goal of God in our lives. Failing to understand will produce weak praying (at best).

David is wakened from his false sense of security. And he cries out.

Its content

Like a publican's prayer David cries out "Have mercy upon me! Be my helper!". When we become complacent and get comfortable God may just hide his exquisite face. Dismay sets in for God's true children. Prayer and restored praise are the aim God has in his discipline. We tell Him that He will not get praise from us when we are in this state. We cry out for mercy. And we cry out for help! Help:

- ◆ as a preacher enters the pulpit
- ◆ as the sufferer tosses on her bed
- ◆ as the evangelist tells the story
- ◆ as money looks better and better and better and better
- ◆ as the parent disciplines his child
- ◆ as the worker toils under the boss
- ◆ as Elders deliberate over the future of the church
- ◆ as sin appears appealing
- ◆ as popularity with people seems more promising than public praise for Jesus Christ
- ◆ as pride in the heart restrains praise on the lips

Ps.46:1 must be memorized and lived out!

After the discipline

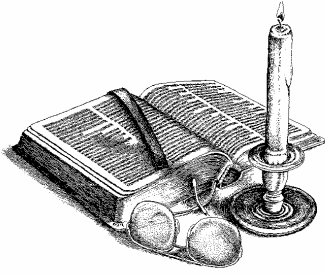
Vv.11-12

Having looked at David before and during God's discipline, we now come to the outcome. Here we see a response to God's discipline in a Godward way. Notice what God does when he takes away mourning. What is left? Is it simply the absence of sorrow? Never! He doesn't merely take away, he gives. God makes his people's heart to dance at the sound of His Name. As we see in Gen. 3 so we see here, God takes off a cloth of guilt and clothes us with a cloth of gladness. This clothing is far more precious than silk. This clothing covers much more than the body. Clothed in the Lord Jesus Christ our hearts sing!

Conclusion

In conclusion, try to locate yourself in one of these phases.

- ❖ Before discipline
 - ❖ Are you at ease? Then:
 - ❖ Realize your frightening condition
 - ❖ Reorder your prayer life
 - ❖ Respond biblically when discipline comes
- ❖ During discipline
 - ❖ Are you dismayed? Then:
 - ❖ Recognize what God is after
 - ❖ Reorient your heart's gaze
 - ❖ Readily rely on grace through prayer
- ❖ After discipline
 - ❖ Are you joyful? Then:
 - ❖ Revel in fresh grace
 - ❖ Release your praise publicly
 - ❖ Recruit others to revel in grace



Title

Text

Daniel Turner • The Chapel Pulpit • <date> Sunday Morning

Requests for tapes or questions about this message may be directed to the church office at (937) 885-2143 or e-mail. Daniel Turner uses the *English Standard Version* in his preaching and teaching.

Heading

Personal Reflection and Application

- How does my understanding of this text affect my worship and my walk?
-