



## Sermon, Sunday May 23, 2021, “David’s Confession”

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 57:1-11** <sup>1</sup> Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by. <sup>2</sup> I cry to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. <sup>3</sup> He will send from heaven and save me, he will put to shame those who trample on me. *Selah.* God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness. <sup>4</sup> I lie down among lions that greedily devour human prey; their teeth are spears and arrows, their tongues sharp swords. <sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over all the earth. <sup>6</sup> They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my path, but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah.* <sup>7</sup> My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. I will sing and make melody. <sup>8</sup> Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn. <sup>9</sup> I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. <sup>10</sup> For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds. <sup>11</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over all the earth.

### Introduction: David the Man of Faith

I saw a photo of my friend's son's prom that was recently posted on Facebook. When I looked at the photo I thought of how excited his heart would be all dressed up in a suit. It is the season of graduation. Graduation is a juncture where one step must be completed and the next step must be taken. Excitement and vague fear of another world coexist. I bless all who graduate and wish the Lord's mercy to overflow in their lives.

Today's text was written when David hid in a cave to escape King Saul. King Saul, who hated David, had three thousand soldiers and tried to find David and kill him. David was in the midst of his life being threaten. But today's text confesses David's thanks and praise to the Lord.

David was a man of faith in the Lord despite many faults and mistakes. I hope that we can learn David's faith through his confessions.

### Body: David's Faith

**Let's look at verse 7 of today's text. “My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!”**

What does David confess that makes his heart so confident? David clearly understood what was meaningless under the sun and what was eternal in heaven. That is why he confessed that he hoped for the eternal things in heaven. David had the wisdom to discern what would soon disappear and what would be eternal. That is why David can confess his confident faith.

**David's son King Solomon says, “I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”(Ecclesiastes 1:14)**

Through confidence in the eternal things of heaven David believed that the calamities under the sun would also disappear in meaninglessness. This faith was the power that enabled David to overcome difficulties.



## 1. Under the sun is all meaningless.

Let's look at the second half of verse 1 of today's text. David says, **“In the shadow of thy wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.”**

David believed that his situation of fleeing Saul would be over. But, why does suffering disappear without continuing to stay in our lives? It's not because we solve the problem well. It's because of the compassion and unfailing love of the Lord.

So the Lamentation of Jeremiah says, **“Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men,” (Lamentations 3:32-33)**

The hardships we face in life are not eternal. Instead, the grace of the Lord is eternal. David believed in the Lord's eternal grace, so that he was confident in the Lord. I hope we also have this kind of faith. So, what are the eternal things in heaven that David was confident about?

## 2. Eternal things in heaven.

### 1) The Lord's mercy (forgiveness)

Let's look at the first half of verse 1 of today's text. **“Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me.” (Psalm 57:1)**

The mercy of the Lord for us is eternal. Even David, the faithful, killed and committed adultery because he could not overcome his lust. It is a fault that cannot be forgiven by the standards of the world. But David was able to repent based on faith in the merciful Lord. In spite of our faults, there is no change in the Lord's mercy toward us. We must be able to trust in the mercy of the Lord.

### 2) The Lord fulfills His plan for us.

Also, the Lord is eternal in fulfilling His plan for us. David confesses in verse 2 of today's text. **“I cry to God Most High, to God who fulfils his purpose for me.”**

We often cannot see our lives with the eyes of faith. When we work, take care of our children, and become obsessed with worldly affairs, we often forget about the purpose of the Lord's sending us to this world. Nevertheless, the Lord accomplishes His plan for us through our lives.

The Lord gave a dream to Pharaoh which no one could interpret. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream and through this event Joseph had a chance to become the prime minister of Egypt. In addition, the Lord leads Paul to meet Ananias of Damascus, which opens Paul's eyes and establishes him as a worker for the spread of the Gospel.

Jesus said, **“So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6: 31-33)**

### 3) The unfailing love of the Lord

Finally, it is the unfailing love of the Lord that is always with us. Let's look at verses 3 and 10 of today's text. **“God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness!” (v.3) “For thy steadfast love is great to the heavens, thy faithfulness to the clouds.” (v.10)**

Unfailing love is a characteristic of the Lord that is emphasized in the Psalms. For those who cannot live without help, it is the duty of the Lord's love to be a shepherd of the sheep, to be the father of



orphans, to be a refuge and strength for the weak, to be a savior for sinners and a teacher for the foolish. That is the unfailing love of the Lord.

### **3. What do we have to do?**

And then, what do we have to do while enjoying the grace of the eternal heavens?

#### **1) Prayer; “I cry to God Most High” (v.2)**

Prayer is the clearest and surest way for us to draw close to the Lord. True prayer is to lift our souls from earth to heaven to fellowship with the Lord. Instead of seeing King Saul threatening David's life, we must seek help from Most High the Lord.

Prayer is an expression of faith and will in the Lord. That is why people of faith should pray without ceasing.

#### **2) Praise; “My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!” (v.7)**

The second thing we must do is to confess our gratitude and praise for the Lord's mercy (forgiveness), His fulfillment, and His unfailing love. When we meet the Lord and listen to the Lord's words, we will confess praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. Therefore, sincere prayer does not end only with prayer, but it leads us to thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. Every prayer in the Psalm shows us a model of a mature believer.

#### **3) Witness of the Lord; “I will give thanks to thee, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to thee among the nations.” (v.9)**

The last thing we must do is witness of the Lord. We must be able to proclaim to the world the Lord we have experienced.

### **Conclusion: A confidence in faith for the Lord**

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Psalm 8:1 says, **“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.”**

The reason why all the earth is majestic in the name of the Lord is that we can worship the mercy of the Lord anywhere. And we can pray anywhere in the name of the Lord. Also, because the name of the Lord takes root and grows in our lives.

But the important thing is that all that the Lord has prepared for us will produce abundant fruit when we cooperate with Him through our faith. Therefore, we also need confidence in faith for the Lord, like David.

Please remember that suffering is not eternal. We already have heavenly things which are forever. We must strive to ensure that the eternal things we possess can produce abundant fruit. Also, if we want to discover something eternal, we must rely on the mercy of the Lord and pray more with all our heart. Surely the Lord will answer our prayer. I bless you to have a confident faith in the Lord.

