



Singing in the Cave

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

November 25, 2018

Truth for Life

For the week of November 25, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. Psalm 57:1

If you've been a Christian for very long, you've been there. The Shepherd you trusted threw you into some circumstances that were quite unpleasant, and you didn't have a clue as to why He was doing it. David had been there. In fact, he wrote Psalm 57 out of the depths of just such an experience. When he was a teenager, David had been anointed as king to replace the disobedient King Saul. Then he slew the giant Goliath and was thrust into instant national fame. But King Saul's jealous rage sent David running for his life. He spent the better part of his twenties dodging Saul's repeated attempts on his life.

A Worship Encounter – Psalm 57

1) Pray for His _____ (vs. 1-5)

Prayer is a Spiritual Exercise, not just a tool to get things done.

- _____ ... *"Have mercy on me,"*
- _____ ... *"for in you I take refuge"*
- _____ ... *"I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings"*
- _____ ... *"God sends forth his love and his faithfulness."*

2) Praise Him for _____ (vs. 6-8)

3) Proclaim His _____ (vs. 9-11)

Closing Thoughts

_____ do not guarantee _____.

Every obstacle will be a fresh opportunity to _____.

Trials are the tools of _____; when character has been developed it will always result with _____.

1. Would you rather live one life that lasts 1,000 years or live 10 lives that last 100 years each; in the latter each life would start fresh and new? Why would you make the choice you did? What would be the benefits of each?
2. This weekend we heard that life often offers plenty of opportunities for exercising or practicing faith. While we know that God is always with us and is able to help us, it sometimes can feel like God is missing and there is little hope of breaking through. In the following verses, what hope can we count on in the midst of the mess?

Psalm 34:17-18

Psalm 46:1-3

Psalm 37:1-2

Psalm 9:18

Psalm 27:1-3

Psalm 4:8

3. The Art of Prayer often gets muddy for our praying becomes primarily a tool to get things done. Reflect on the subpoints under "Pray for His Mercy." How are (praying, trusting, resolving, and hoping) all involved in prayer? Examining your own prayer life, what part do you see most prominent? What part is the most challenging for you? How could this group assist you to sure up that area?
4. Consider the Closing Thoughts from Sunday. Which of these catch your attention? Why? How is God desiring to use that in your life?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
 - a. What are some practical ramifications if our focus shifts from God's glory to human happiness?
 - b. How can we know where to draw the line between using effective methods of problem solving and simple "raw" faith?
 - c. Is praising God when you don't feel like it hypocrisy or a matter of obedience?
 - d. A Christian who has just lost a child bitterly asks, "How can a good God allow this?" What would you say?



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A Worship Encounter – Psalm 57

1) Pray for His **Mercy** (vs. 1-5)

Prayer is a Spiritual Exercise, not just a tool to get things done.

- **Praying** ... "Have mercy on me,"
- **Trusting** ... "for in you I take refuge"
- **Resolving** ... "I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings"
- **Hoping** ... "God sends forth his love and his faithfulness."

2) Praise Him for **His Majesty** (vs. 6-8)

3) Proclaim His **Message** (vs. 9-11)

Closing Thoughts

Past Victories do not guarantee **Future Successes**.

Every obstacle will be a fresh opportunity to **practice faith**.

Trials are the tools of **Character Development**; when character has been developed it will always result with **fresh strength**.

1. Would you rather live one life that lasts 1,000 years or live 10 lives that last 100 years each; in the latter each life would start fresh and new? Why would you make the choice you did? What would be the benefits of each?
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