

From Fear to Faith -- Psalm 57

communion

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ Sept 4, 2022

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

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,
till the storms of destruction pass by.

² I cry out to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

³ He will send from heaven and save me;
he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah*

God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

⁴ My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts—
the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows,
whose tongues are sharp swords.

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

⁶ They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down.
They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*

⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!
I will sing and make melody!

⁸ Awake, my glory!

Awake, O harp and lyre!

I will awake the dawn!

⁹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.

¹⁰ For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

Introduction and Background

- what makes you afraid?

- our culture plays off of _____, and so does the media, and advertising agencies know this all too well

- the website "Psychology Today" knows the _____ that society tries to instill in us and writes about the massive amounts of money that "Big Pharma" spends on advertising to keep you safe and healthy

They write:

"The pharmaceutical industry is one of the biggest spenders in advertising in the United States. The numbers behind those decisions are quite staggering. Just considering television, 187 commercials for about 70 prescription medications have collectively aired almost half a million times since the start of 2018"

- fast forward a few years and in the 2020s it is estimated that **75 percent** of advertisements in the US are from "Big Pharma"

- most of these advertisements are directed at seniors claiming they can live healthier and longer lives

- but no magic pill can cause you to live eternally and escape death

- hear what Beth Tanner in her commentary on Psalm 57 writes:

"We are daily bombarded by fear. The news tells us murder, rape, and slaughter until it seems an unsafe proposition to ever set foot outside our own door. The advertisements are constantly offerings us a cream or pill to ward off death, or a home security system to protect what belongs to us, or a car that will protect us from all ills; but all of these are fallacies. Our trust _____ in God and only in God. Refuge will not be found in the security that humans create, but in trust in the God to care for us when we are threatened."

- we as humans do feel threatened on a daily basis, whether that threat is a health concern or from people

- we as humans crave and long for safety and security

- Psalm 57 speaks to _____ and security, but that security does not come from a cream, a pill, a car or a home security system, security comes from the _____

- the context of this Psalm, this Psalm was _____ during a time where David was not in the best of circumstances

- the subscript says *"To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave."*

- this information puts the _____ of writing in one of two places in the book of 1 Samuel

1) 1 Samuel 22:1 when David is fleeing for his life from Saul in the cave of Adullam

- David fled from Saul to Gath in 1 Samuel 21:10 and went to the land of Gath

- but David was _____ of how the people of Gath would treat him so he acted _____ and was sent out of Gath by the king

- he landed in this cave as a _____ from the threats of Saul

OR

2) 1 Samuel 24:1-4 in the cave of Engedi

1 Samuel 24:1-4 When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." ² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. ³ And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. ⁴ And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

- 1 Samuel 24:1-4, David in the cave of Engedi seems to fit the _____ of Psalm 57 the best

- this is because _____ has set a net and dug a pit for David, but the tables have _____ and Saul is now the one in a vulnerable position

- no matter which incident applies to the context of Psalm 57, both 1 Samuel 22 and 24 describe _____ to David's life and David finds _____ and strength from the Lord

- Psalm 57 is part _____ – as we see in Psalm 57:1-6

- do you see how many times David mentions that he is in _____?

- in Psalm 57:1 there are _____ of destruction

- in Psalm 57:3 people are _____ing on David
- in Psalm 57:4 David is in the midst of _____ and fiery beasts
- in Psalm 57:6 people dig _____ and set _____ for David
- Psalm 57 is also a _____ and thanksgiving psalm – as we see in Psalm 57:7-11
- there are _____ distinct parts to this Psalm
- in Psalm 57:1-3 – David is crying out to God for _____
- in Psalm 57:4-6 – David explains his _____ that people are after him
- in Psalm 57:7-11 – David _____ the Lord for His steadfast love and faithfulness

Outline in Brief:

- 1) (57:1-3) God Be Merciful
- 2) (57:4-6) God Be Exalted
- 3) (57:7-11) God is to be Praised

1) (57:1-3) God Be Merciful

(57:1) 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, till the storms of destruction pass by.

- this Psalm starts out with a double plea for the Lord to have _____ upon David
- the double “be merciful to me” is used to emphasize the _____ with which David is seeking mercy from the Lord
- David finds his _____ in the Lord
- we see that _____ is confident about the Lord being a refuge for him for two reasons

1) David uses the word “_____” two times to emphasize that the Lord can rescue

2) David uses the imagery of “the _____ of Lord” to illustrate the refuge of the Lord

- a little bird watching can help us understand this _____
- the “_____” remind us of the sure _____ of the Lord
- think of a bird that is in the nest with the young and how the bird’s wings _____ the young

- the wings _____ the young birds from the elements of rain and sun
- the wings also protect the young from predators who want to eat the young birds
- the parents of these young birds give their lives to preserving and protecting their young until they are raised
- isn't that what the _____ does for us?
- yes, we can be confident in the Lord who is our _____!

(57:2) I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

- David seeks mercy from God and he also "cries out" to God

- to "cry out" to God means you are _____ God in faith

- David cries out to God " _____ High"

- the phrase describing God as "Most _____", means that there is no other _____ but the Lord

- the Lord is the _____ God and the gods of the nations are mere _____

- in the song of Moses, he says this:

Exodus 15:11 "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in _____, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

- the answer to those questions is "NO ONE" because the Lord is God _____ High!

(57:3) He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. Selah God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

- God sends from heaven and _____!

- David is _____ by the Lord from those who seek to "trample him"

- this word "trample" has the idea of being _____ up

- in the context of this Psalm, it is _____ who seeks to devour David but the Lord Most High _____ him from Saul's threats

- of course this points us to the _____ and work of the Lord Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ _____ heaven and comes to the earth to _____!

John 12:47 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to _____ the world.

- God sends two _____ to David

- these two words were put together in Psalm 100 and 92: 1) steadfast _____ and 2) _____!

1) His steadfast love

- the Lord sends His _____ and _____

2) His faithfulness

- the _____ is faithful and sends His faithfulness to David

- the Lord promised that David would be king and so Saul was not able to harm David because the Lord was his _____

2) (57:4-6) God Be Exalted

- what is amazing about this section is the _____ of David in the midst of trials

- in Psalm 57:4 and 57:6 David speaks about the trials he is facing and they are certainly difficult circumstances

- but in the middle of these horrible circumstances David _____ the Lord

- do you praise the Lord and desire the Lord to be _____ even in the midst of trials and tribulations?

(57:4) My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts-- the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

- the people who are after David are described as _____ and fiery beasts

- these people do not sound like _____ you do not want to have over for dinner

- but as well we see the _____ of their actions by this next description

- their _____ are spears and arrows and their tongues are sharp swords

- David is describing the sins of _____ and their destructive nature

- I cannot help but think about the _____ of speech that we all commit that is described in Romans 3

Romans 3:13-14 "Their throat is an open _____; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of _____ and bitterness."

- the people who are after David are _____ and they use their speech to _____ David

(57:5) Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

- David's praise is that the Lord would be exalted

- in Psalm 92:8 the Psalmist says the Lord is _____

Psalm 92:8 but you, O LORD, are on high _____.

- David's desire in Psalm 57 is that the Lord would be _____ exalted, even above the heavens

- David continues to pray that the _____ of the Lord would be over the earth

- David's desire is that His great _____ would be known all over the earth

- can you imagine going through what _____ is going through, hiding in a cave from someone who wants to _____ you, and all you are thinking about is that God would be _____ and glorified on the earth?

- David's concern for the glory of God is a sure _____ that he is truly finding _____ in the Lord

(57:6) They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. Selah

- these people who are after David, set a _____ for his steps and dug a _____ for David to fall into

- this _____ or even depresses David as he describes his soul as bowed down

- but the tables are turned on the enemies of David, the net and pit that was meant for David has been used against the _____ of David

3) (57:7-11) God is to be Praised

(57:7) My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!

- David declares two times to the Lord that his _____ is steadfast for emphasis

- the word "steadfast" has the meaning of being established, rooted or _____

- David is _____ established in the Lord who is gracious and faithful

- David responds to the Lord with _____

- David _____ and makes melody to the Lord

(57:8) Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

- David is awake, and we know this because he says " _____ " three times

- David is up early to _____ the Lord

- as children we often were up early at Christmas because we were _____

- when we get older we like to sleep in on those holidays even though when we were children we were up at the crack of dawn
- David is _____ about the Lord and excited to praise the Lord so he is up early with his _____ and lyre to praise the Lord

(57:9) I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

- David continues in _____ with heartfelt gratitude to God
- David sings _____ to the Lord
- do you see where David gives thanks and praises the Lord?
- he _____ among the people and among the nations
- David is not _____ to speak of the _____ of God to all the peoples of the earth!
- how will the earth _____ about the greatness of God and Jesus Christ?
- we must _____ and _____ thanks among the people so that they will know!

(57:10) For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

- David again talks about the _____ love of the Lord and the faithfulness of the Lord

1) the steadfast love of the Lord is _____ to the heavens

- we see this _____ in the person and work of Christ
- God's grace is _____, just like the hymn the "deep deep love of Jesus"
- God's grace is _____ and it can _____ all our most wicked sins through Jesus Christ

2) God's faithfulness is to the _____

- the Lord continues to be _____
- the Lord has _____ been faithful and the Lord will _____ be faithful
- we see the ultimate _____ of faithfulness in the gift of His only son!
- the Lord promised in Genesis 3:15 of a Messiah
- _____ 3:15 is the first mention of the person and work of Christ in the Old Testament

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; _____ shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- the offspring of the woman is _____ Christ and He defeats the serpent who is Satan by means of His _____ upon the Cross

1 John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to _____ the works of the devil.

- the Lord will _____ let us down, because He is absolutely _____ to His _____

(57:11) Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

- this psalm ends again with the same words that we see in _____ 57:5

- David at the end of this psalm _____ the Lord because he has experienced the _____ of the Lord

- David eagerly desires that the Lord be _____ over all the earth

- in Psalm 8 David _____ similar truths about the greatness of God

Psalm 8:9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your _____ in all the earth!

- yes the Lord _____ High ought to be exalted alone because He the only true God

Application

1) Jesus Christ is God Most High

- this psalm points us to the greatness of the _____ of Jesus Christ and His work upon the _____

- Psalm 57:1 speaks of _____ of destruction and that is exactly what _____ Christ went through on the Cross

- Psalm 57:4 speaks of David being in the midst of lions and _____ beasts

- that is _____ what Jesus Christ faced as he was put on trial by the Jews

- Psalm 57:4 speaks of David facing people with "teeth like _____ and arrows, and tongues that are _____ swords."

- this is exactly what Jesus faced as he was _____ and ridiculed even by many people who observed His death

Luke 23:35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers _____ at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"

- hear Psalm 57:3 again

Psalm 57:3 He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to _____ him who tramples on me. Selah God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

- God will _____ from heaven and save and God will _____ His steadfast love and faithfulness

- this of course points us to Jesus Christ, who came from _____ to save

- God the Father shows His _____ love by the giving of His one and only Son

- this sounds a lot like _____ 3:16 doesn't it?

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever _____ in him should not perish but have _____ life.

- Psalm 57:10 says that the steadfast _____ of the Lord is great to the heavens and the _____ of God is to the clouds

- how can you not think about _____ Christ and His great steadfast love for us as He went to the Cross to pay the _____ for sinners

John 10:11 I am the _____ shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the _____.

- in times of _____ and uncertainty we can have confidence in the great _____ of Jesus Christ

- in times of health concerns we can _____ in the great faithfulness of Jesus Christ

- who or what is your _____ in times of uncertainty and trials?

- what brings you _____ when trials and temptations come?

- I pray that the great steadfast _____ of the Lord is your joy and _____

- because the Lord is _____ and great in steadfast love we ought to respond with _____ to the Lord

- because of Christ and His grace do you cry out like David does in Psalm 57:5 and 11?

Psalm 57:11 Be _____, O God, above the heavens! Let your _____ be over _____ the earth!

- if you do not see the importance of Christ and His _____ consider today how David could find _____ in the Lord even in spite of numerous death threats

- _____ from Christ, we all have the threat of our sin with its consequences, _____ in Christ alone so that you can be free from _____ of punishment and experience the _____ of eternal life

2) From Fear to Faith

- that last few years have certainly been trying times and times could get even more difficult especially for the church of Jesus Christ in Canada

- turning on the TV does not really help now does it?

- when we turn on the news we hear phrases like, record inflation, rising food costs, food shortages, 8th and 9th wave, monkey pox and so on and so forth

- in times of difficulty and times of trials whom do we _____?

- we might have a number of _____ things that we might face

- we might have a health concern that could _____ us

- we might feel _____ to cave to the Canadian culture so we do not face the wrath of a social media mob

- we might be _____ because we follow the Lord and stand for biblical truth

- we might be _____ with a family member or family members

- we might be struggling with a horrible co-worker

- the _____ can be endless

- but whom do we _____ when we face these kinds of things?

- do we _____ the Lord and all His wonderful promises or do we seek to find _____ in other things?

- I have seen many professing Christians _____ and abandon Jesus Christ for far less things than a health concern

- these professing Christians sought _____ in man-made saviors and they never delivered and they _____ will

- _____ gods are like scarecrows in the cucumber patch and they will never save or deliver you

- Jeremiah is very clear about the _____ idols that Israel embraced when he writes this:

Jeremiah 10:5 Their _____ are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to _____ good."

- what is even more incredible about Psalm 57 is David's _____ in the midst of fearful situations
 - David finds refuge in the _____, mercy, sovereignty and faithfulness of God
 - David is able to move from the fear of his circumstances to faith in God _____ High who is _____
 - Let us _____ this as well, let us _____ our souls in God and in His Word in the midst of trials, so that we can be _____ by the Lord day by day
 - let us, _____ the Lord in worship and thanksgiving because of the steadfast _____ of the Lord and His faithfulness
 - let us, have joy and hope in the _____ because of His great steadfast _____ towards us!
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Coming UP

September 11 - Psalm 37

September 18 - DFBC Anniversary Message

September 25 - Psalm 26

The Benevolent Fund

Our benevolent fund is distributed by the pastor and elders to meet the unexpected needs of people in our congregation as well as those in our community. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please place your cash donation, in a marked envelope, into the offering box. Please note that this fund is not part of the church's budget (which is based on regular tithes and offerings) and as such does not receive a charitable receipt.