

"David's Peace"

Psalm 3:1-6

Introduction: Today we are stepping away from the study in Revelation because God has impressed upon my heart to do a message from Psalm 3. As we look at this Psalm this morning I want to use it to help you to see the need to walk close to God always in your life.

We are living in a day when many believers have allowed God to be pushed to the side while they live their lives indulged in the distractions of this world. You see there are many who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior and are truly saved but they have allowed their love for the world to control them. So, God has been set off to the side and they only turn to Him when there is a problem. As I have said before, God is often treated like a vending machine and when problems come people drop their "coin" of prayer into the machine and expect God to step in and fix the situation.

These people are missing so much. They know about God, but they are not taking time to know God on a personal level. For this reason, they really struggle when they are faced with the trials of this life.

Let me just say there are times as we walk close to God that the trials of this life can be a real struggle but for the believer who is close to God there is a peace amid the storm. There are great promises for those who are walking close by God.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Isaiah 26:3-4

³ *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

⁴ *Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:*

When we drift away from God or we neglect to seek a deeper relationship with Him, then these verses seem to be nothing more than Words on the page.

Let me now take you into the life of David. He had spent his days as a shepherd seeking to know as much about God as he possibly could.

Acts 13:22

²² And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

David made many mistakes in his life like all of us, but he had a deep understanding of God which gave him great stability as he faced the trials of his life. Those who push God aside to live for what this world has to offer have very little stability.

James 1:8

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Today as we look at Psalm 3 we shall see how David's close relationship with the Lord stabilized him during great trials.

I. **The Situation**

Notice Psalm 3:1-2

The question here is, "Where was David's oppression coming from here?" The time when David wrote this was a very difficult time in his life. From a human perspective his life and his world were falling apart. His own son Absalom turned on David and tried to dethrone him as king and take over the throne. To see what was happening in David's life we need to go to 2 Samuel.

Notice 2 Samuel 15:1-12

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

² And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

³ And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

⁴ Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

⁵ And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

⁶ And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷ And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.

⁸ For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.

⁹ And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.

¹⁰ But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.

¹¹ And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

¹² And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

Notice 2 Samuel 15:13-14

¹³ And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

¹⁴ And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

Notice 2 Samuel 15:30

³⁰ And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

2 Samuel 16:5-14

⁵ And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

⁶ And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

⁷ *And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:*

⁸ *The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.*

⁹ *Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.*

¹⁰ *And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?*

¹¹ *And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.*

¹² *It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.*

¹³ *And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.*

¹⁴ *And the king, and all the people that were with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.*

Notice 2 Samuel 16:20-23

²⁰ *Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.*

²¹ *And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.*

²² *So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.*

²³ *And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.*

Notice 2 Samuel 17:1-4

Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night:

² And I will come upon him while he is weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people that are with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only:

³ And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace.

⁴ And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel.

Notice 2 Samuel 18:9-15

⁹ And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

¹⁰ And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

¹¹ And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.

¹² And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom.

¹³ Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldst have set thyself against me.

¹⁴ Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

¹⁵ And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

Notice 2 Samuel 18:33

³³ *And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!*

This is the context for Psalm 3.

Now let us get back to Psalm 3

Notice Psalm 3:3

The first word of the verse is very important. David's world was falling apart but he knew God was still in control. Here in this verse we see David's confidence in God.

1. God was his shield.

The word shield here refers to a "BUCKLER" which was a shield that surrounded the soldier. David understood that God protected him on all sides.

Isaiah 43:2-3a

² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

³ *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:*

2. God was his glory.

David was driven from his throne in disgrace, but he knew that God would eventually restore him back to where God had placed him.

Let me just point out that because David knew the will of God for his life, which was God had anointed David to be king, in knowing this his faith never wavered amid all that was unfolding around him.

Application:

Let us not miss the peace that comes to the believer when he or she knows the will of God for their lives. No matter what they face they face they can know for sure that God is greater than the storms which they face, and He is greater than the enemies that surround them. The point is, the closer we walk with God the greater the peace during the storms and the trials.

3. God was the lifter of his head.

Davis hung his head in sorrow because of what Absalom had done and because he was dead, but David knew there would be a day when joy would once again fill his heart for God would lift his weary head.

Isaiah 26:3

³ *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

John 16:33

³³ *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

Notice Psalm 3:4

David found peace in the fact that God was only a prayer away from him. He knew that while his enemies cried out against him that his cries were heard by God and God would move on his behalf.

Application:

Psalm 50:15

¹⁵ *And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*

Psalm 91:15

¹⁵ *He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.*

While many will not hear while you go through the storms we can be sure there is one who does care and listens.

Notice Psalm 3:5-6

This verse is amazing! During Absalom's revolt David was able to lie down and sleep. The reason is because⁴ he knew God. He knew that God was in control and that God would work His will.

Psalm 127:1-2

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

² *It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.*

Listen to the words of an unknown writer;

"This quietude of a man's heart by faith in God, is a higher sort of work than the natural resolution of manly courage, for it is the gracious operation of God's Holy Spirit upholding a man above nature, and therefore the Lord must have all the glory of it."

Conclusion:

What we see in David's words is the result of a man spending quality time with his God.