

David the Righteous Soldier

Psalms 18

We continue our series entitled "Meet the Psalmists." This summer we're covering at least one psalm from every named psalmist. This is our third and final psalm of David.

Soldiers are hard to get to know... but not David.

Psalm 18: the prayer of a righteous soldier

(1) A soldier

- What's it like to be David the soldier?
- Note the vocabulary of battle in David's prayer: enemies (4X), strength (3X), shield (3X), fortress (2X), refuge (2X), stronghold, war, troop, destroy, subdued, violence, etc.
 - The more you're open and honest with the Lord, the more you're likely to use the terms related to your job/calling
- How this soldier prays:
 - Equipping. *Lord, you gave me everything I needed to be a soldier.* (18:28-42)
 - Salvation. *Lord, you are the Great Soldier, saving even me.* (18:1-19, 43-50)

(2) A righteous soldier?

- "My righteousness." (18:20) What do you think about David confidently praying these words? See 18:20-21.
 - Let's admit it, the words "my righteousness" don't sound great to us. Is that the problem?
 - It's true, David was righteous/innocent from the many accusations against him. He had true faith, and it showed.
 - Is this righteous life the fruit of "a man after God's own heart"? Yes! See 1 Samuel 13:14.
- Paul says simply: "We make it our aim to please him." (2 Corinthians 5:9)
 - Want to draw near to God? Commit to this.
- Don't miss the opening: "I love you, O Lord" (Psalm 18:1)

To the Lord's Supper

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read Psalm 18. How do you see the mind and heart of a soldier?
 - a) What parts of your vocation/calling is evident in your prayers?
2. We tend to think of salvation differently than David does in Psalm 18. Why is this? How is our salvation actually different from what we see in Psalm 18, and how is it the same?
3. David's heart after God produced authentic fruit (Psalm 18:20-24; 1 Samuel 13:14). He was a true man of faith, though many accused him otherwise. Paul tells us to be like David, saying, "We make it our aim to please him." (2 Corinthians 5:9)
 - a) Of course we can't save ourselves. But what does it look like as forgiven believers to make it our aim to please him? How important is this to you? Any fears about making this commitment?