

Some penitential Psalms

Psalm 143 – Guidance and deliverance

In the Treasury of David –the following is given - -‘this worthy Psalm contains three things: firstly, a confession of his sins, secondly a lamentation over his injuries and thirdly, a supplication for temporal deliverance and spiritual graces’. Although the last in the Penitential Psalms it does not major on penitence, but as the NKJV heads it up – ‘An earnest appeal for guidance and deliverance’.

THE CASE v 1 – 6

UNDER STRAIN v 1 – 2

Note the phrases –‘hear my prayer’, ‘listen to my cry’, ‘come to my relief’.

What does David plead for?

What does David appeal to in God’s character? (see both verses)

Notice in v2, David is admitting his own sinfulness (unrighteousness) and will only be delivered because of God’s righteousness.

SHATTERED v 3 - 4

v3 Whatever is happening to David? Ever felt like that?

v3-4 How does he actually feel?

DRY v 5 - 6

‘remember, meditate, consider’ – what is he doing? Notice especially it is ‘your works’ and ‘what your hands have done’. Is he only thinking of God’s help in the past, and not experiencing any now? Does v6 shows where he is at present? Note his passion in his prayer.

Life giving water is needed on parched land - -David ‘s desire is for the Lord to give that life giving water. (see John 6v35 and 7v37)

(‘selah’ –pause and think this through)

THE CLAIM v 7 – 12

LONGING v 7 – 8

The passion from v6 now spills over into these verses. What shows how urgent his prayer is?

v7 God - ‘hiding His face’ – what does that mean?

What does he appeal to in v8?

As he puts his trust in the Lord, so he prays for guidance. See also Psalm 5v8

DEDICATING v 9 – 10

v9 What does David mean ‘to hide himself in God’?

v10 What is David asking for here? Should this be a regular prayer for all believers?

No use being taught, unless we obey.

REMEMBERING v 11 – 12

‘for your name’s sake’ - - appealing to God’s honour. So important, and not just to be tacked onto the end of our prayers.

What are David’s requests in these two verses?

v12 As in v8 note how he is dependent on ‘God’s unfailing love’.

What is the significance of finishing ‘I am your servant’?

D.J.

PRAYER POINTS:-

v8 Would be a good basis for our prayer time.

Opportunities for sharing the gospel during the summer–especially Christian holiday camps.

Our own Holiday Club – August 20-24.

Surrey Sketchers (Tuesdays and Fridays)

Surrey Seniors. (leaders –Tony and Jackie Garnet)