

Print - June 22 - Midweek Encouraging Word: Psalm 79!

- 1** A Psalm of Asaph. O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance; Your holy temple they have defiled; They have laid Jerusalem in heaps.
- 2** The dead bodies of Your servants They have given as food for the birds of the heavens, The flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth.
- 3** Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem, And there was no one to bury them.
- 4** We have become a reproach to our neighbors, A scorn and derision to those who are around us.
- 5** How long, Lord? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire?
- 6** Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You, And on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name.
- 7** For they have devoured Jacob, And laid waste his dwelling place.
- 8** Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, For we have been brought very low.
- 9** Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!
- 10** Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let there be known among the nations in our sight The avenging of the blood of Your servants which has been shed.
- 11** Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; According to the greatness of Your power Preserve those who are appointed to die;
- 12** And return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom Their reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord.
- 13** So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

The Devotional Psalter (Psalmist).

The community cries out for relief in this moving lament (**5** How long, Lord? Will You be angry forever?). The people of God have been torn to bits, and Jerusalem has been destroyed. But this is not a matter of mere victimhood. Asaph understands, on behalf of the people, that Israel herself is deserving of blame. He asks God not to remember their sins

(**8** Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, For we have been brought very low.). But they were to atone for their sinful deeds (to meet us, For we have been brought very low.

(**9** Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!).

Such is like in this perplexing fallen world. Disaster strikes. Pain suddenly swallows us up. Yet we are not mere victims. We are acutely aware of much of our own sinfulness and failure. At times we do not feel free to ask God for relief from the pain overwhelming us. After all, we are so sin-laden ourselves. Surely we deserve this pain? Perhaps somehow this is God's paying us back? This is how we reason sometimes. Hang on.

As we pray this psalm today, we have a unique advantage over God's people in Asaph's time. We see that if we are united to Jesus by faith, then no disaster that ever washes into our lives is because of God's wrath toward us. All of that was poured out on Jesus at the cross. God may be disciplining us; he may be chastening us; he may be testing us. But it is all out of love! Jesus has washed away any reason for the Father to be angry with us in a punishing kind of way.

Everything in your life, good and pain, comfortable and painful, is from the hand of loving Father. And his grace is and always will be sufficient to the challenge you face or ever will face. Be encouraged God loves you!! And he always will!!

Prayer:

We are thankful that Jerry DePriest (June Baker's father) is at home from the hospital after a bout with pneumonia. Thank you for your prayers. Let's remember one another in our mutual prayers. So many are going through the trials of life. Too many to list. The reality is that we all stand in the need of prayer. That's why the Bible instructs us to "pray for one another." What do we pray for one another? Colossians 1:9-12. Amen.

Let's gather this Sunday, June 26. Sunday School: 10:00AM.

Morning Service: 11:00 - Pastor's Message: "A Great Salvation" 1 Peter 1:10-21!

Evening Service: 6:00 - Pastor's Message: (The Life of Hezekiah.)