

Brad Harbaugh • North Carolina • 2600 Fairview Rd • Raleigh, NC • 27612 • 919-649-5208 • brad.harbaugh@capitolcom.org

Psalm 5 reveals the daily discipline secret of King David. This disciplined time with God was an exchange that ‘reset and refreshed’ his soul. It replaced mourning and frustrated sighing with joy and delight. *The historical setting of this Psalm emphasizes practical life application. It was a high stress time in King David’s political life.* Many in the Kingdom of Israel had risen up in accusation, hate speech and lies to defame David’s leadership and person. *David, a man after God’s own heart, demon-*

Review: This Psalm was a busy tune, played by the flute or woodwinds. The melody, according to the Talmud, was to the “tune of bees”. How do you handle great stress in the fast pace of life? David displays in verses 1-3 three practical actions: 1) Be Still – sigh quietly before God 2) See the King of All – be still and look up! 3) Lay the pieces of your life before the God who cares!

Psalm 5:4–12 (The Message)

⁴ You don’t socialize with Wicked, or invite Evil over as your houseguest. ⁵ Hot-Air-Boaster collapses in front of you; you shake your head over Mischief-Maker. ⁶ God destroys Lie-Speaker; Blood-Thirsty and Truth-Bender disgust you. ⁷ And here I am, your invited guest— it’s incredible! I enter your house; here I am, prostrate in your inner sanctum, ⁸ Waiting for directions to get me safely through enemy lines. ⁹ Every word they speak is a land mine; their lungs breathe out poison gas. Their throats are gaping graves, their tongues slick as mudslides. ¹⁰ Pile on the guilt, God! Let their so-called wisdom wreck them. Kick them out! They’ve had their chance. ¹¹ But you’ll welcome us with open arms when we run for cover to you. Let the party last all night! Stand guard over our celebration. ¹² You are famous, God, for welcoming God-seekers, for decking us out in delight.

4. Attribute Anchor verse 4

King David expresses frustration about evil, but begins that expression with an anchor to an attribute of God.

The anchor point that shields David’s heart from despair and bitterness is the attribute of God’s Holiness. **The descriptive verses 5-6**, speak of the various characteristics of those who are besieging King David. *David opened his heart to share his struggles with God.*

How does verse 9 compare in its description of 900 BC struggles to public office life today?

You have opened your heart if you gave thought to the question above. You might be asking, how does the anchor point of God’s holiness help?

The Holiness of God is more than purity from sin. Consider that the angels who cry “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty” are also sinless creatures. (Isaiah 6). The Holiness of God sets Him apart above all! He is perfect in all his ways. In Psalm 4, the anchor point was God’s sovereignty. He actively directs or allows everything according to His plan. The Holiness of God maintains that Sovereignty in agreement with all of God’s attributes. What rest this understanding is when evil seems to be in charge, it isn’t - God rules! What a healing ointment this was to David when God has allowed evil to touch his life in many ways.

“By the time anything touches me it most assuredly has God’s permission to do so!”

Betrayal hurts deeply and naturally diminishes trust and reduces open conversation. But, consider God, the Holy One who can be trusted with your most open heart and welcomes the deepest expressions of pain. This is why “sighs can be considered” and “pieces of life can be laid” before Him. God is the perfect wonderful counselor! God, the gracious Holy One, listens to *the frustrated prayers from King David. The God who sanctifies chooses to work on David’s heart even in his theocratic focused imprecatory prayer expression. (Ps.5:10) Jesus teaches believers today to go beyond to pray for their enemies.*

Point: *Express yourself openly to God. He will listen and heal your heart. He beckons to come to Him as we are!*

“Just as I am” by Mahalia Jackson

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come! I come

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fighting and fears within without
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

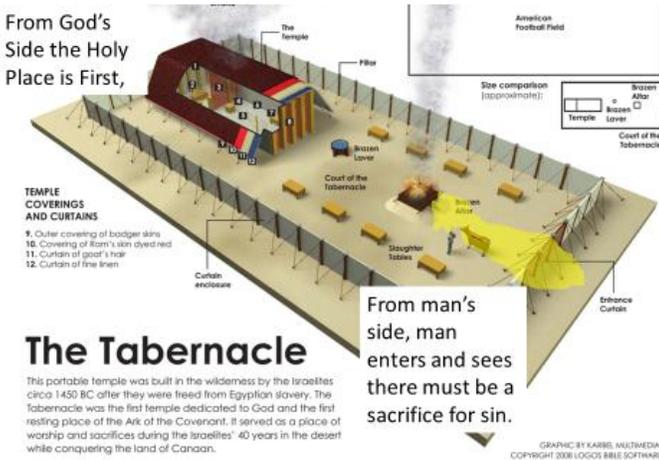
Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind
Sight, riches, healing of the mind

Yea, all I need, in Thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve
Because Thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

5. Early Exchange “David’s discipline”



According to verses 3 and 7 this is a morning prayer. The Hebrew word describes the priests carrying out their early morning tasks of arranging the showbread and the daily sacrifice.¹

David is fellowshiping with his God near the bronze altar in the tabernacle.² In this Old Testament economy God made a way to approach, give offering and have a meal with Him. Cf. Ps. 19:23,24 and Revelation 3:20

The sacrifice was “cooked”, and the worshipper had a meal with God. The time of fellowship involved searching confession, repentance and God’s cleansing forgiveness.

Today, the sacrifice has been paid in full and the risen Jesus Christ has ascended to heaven where He is seated on the throne at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus is our high priest who allows bold access in prayer. (Heb. 4:14-16)

What is the result of coming to the Triune God in the way He has prescribed?

Salvation: In the sacrifice for sin on the bronze altar, the Israelite worshiper learned again and again the concept of substitutionary atonement. This pointed to Christ the Lamb who took away the “sin of the world”, (John 1:29) proven by His resurrection. This good news opened forever the way for all to call upon the Name of the Lord to be at peace with God. Cf. Romans 5:1-8; 10:9,10, 13.

Fellowship with God: The fellowship offering provided the way for the Old Testament believer to walk in step with God. It correlates to the New Testament I John 1:9 and Revelation 3:20 which brings the redeemed near to the heart of God.

Do you see the change that being honest before God brought in David’s life? (Circumstances remained)

Here are few observations: (add to them)

David exchanged:

1. The fear of man for the fear of God
2. A heavy heart of sighing for a light heart of joy and rejoicing.
3. A perspective of instability for a perspective of security.
4. The deception of being cursed for the reality of being blessed.

‘Life should be lived with the assurance of God’s sovereignty, knowing that he rules over everything for his glory. Even when it seems as if the ungodly have dominated the scene, believers should remember that God has chosen the godly for himself and will not forsake them.’³

¹ Lange, J. P., Schaff, P., Moll, C. B., Briggs, C. A., Forsyth, J., Hammond, J. B., ... Conant, T. J. (2008). *A commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Psalms* (p. 75). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software. עָרַךְ is the usual word for the arrangement of the wood of the offering, Lev. 1:7, and of the pieces offered, 1:8, 12; 6:5; the holy lamps, Ex. 27:21; Lev. 24:8; and the show bread, Ex. 40:23; Lev. 24:8

² The word used for temple “hekal” is also that of the tabernacle I Samuel 1:9,3:3; the word “house” Ps. 5:7 is used in Joshua 6:24 and again in I Samuel to refer to the abode of the Ark of God. In these cases it was the tabernacle, not the temple.

³ Ellsworth, R. (2006). *Opening up Psalms* (p. 34). Leominster: Day One Publications.

