

God in the iPod

modern classics connecting with timeless truths



PART 2: CRYING IN THE RAIN

INTRODUCTION

Most of us can probably find ourselves identifying in some way, with some aspect of the song **Crash** from the New Orleans band **12 Stones**.

A number of the Psalms were written from a context of pain. David and other writers were hurting due to terrible circumstances.

Look to the Book – Psalm 57 & 55

Background:

- Both of these Psalms written by David. Psalm 57 prior to his taking the throne of Israel and Psalm 55 during David's time as king.
- In Psalm 57 – David had been set aside or selected to be the king following Saul. The Israeli prophet/priest Samuel had anointed David on God's orders – God had concluded that Saul's reign would come to an end and that David should be the next king.
- Saul was not happy about this and saw David now as a huge threat, so sent his military to hunt David down. David and a few of armed men loyal to him were on the run and hiding in cave in the desert fearing for his life. (Check this period in David's life out in 1 Samuel 22-26.)
- In Psalm 55 David was now king (many years after Ps. 57) but now under a different threat – one from a conspiracy to overthrow him, probably led by his own son Absalom. The royal city of Jerusalem was in turmoil and it was a dangerous and treacherous time, rumours running wild – King David and his supporters under extreme pressure. (Check this period in David's reign out in 2 Samuel 15.)
- David's words are so clearly painful and distressing: "my heart is in anguish"; "fear and trembling have beset me".
- But, David turned to God in the midst of the crash and the storm --- Psalm 57:2 "I cry out to God Most High"; Psalm 55:16 "But I call to God"

So What?

Take Out #1:

_____ Happens (even to people who are seeking to find and follow God)!

- David
Psalm 55:13-14,20-21
Psalm 57:4,6

Joseph: Genesis 37,39; Paul: 2 Corinthians 6:3-10; Jesus: Matthew 27

- Even just causes do not ensure smooth sailing – M. Gandhi, N. Mandela

Take Out #2:

It's okay to _____ your pain and get _____. God can handle it!

Psalm 55:2 ; Psalm 55:4; Psalm 55:15; Psalm 59

Take Out #3:

_____ to _____ is the tipping point in the journey.

Psalm 55:16; Psalm 57:2

The path through the pain comes as we cry out to a God – God as David is describing him here:

- Who is present and with us, even in the darkness. Psalm 57:1-3;55:16
- Who loves and embraces us in the midst of our struggles. Doesn't pull away from the expression of our hurt and anger. Psalm 55:17,22;Psalm 57:3
- Who has a larger perspective on what is happening right now. 55:22-23;57:2;11
- Who can be trusted. Psalm 55:23; Psalm 57:3,10

CONCLUSION – Even when life crashes or we find ourselves in the rain, there is hope.

As we sense we are crashing in the midst of the rain, we can cry out to God who will hold us and bring us through. Ultimately, it is God's love, faithfulness and grace that bring us hope and healing.

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP & REVIEW...

1. Consider the verse in the song "Crash" by 12 Stones: "And I feel like I'm falling/Farther every day/But I know that you're there/Watching over me/And I feel like I'm drowning/The waves crashing over me/But I know that your love/It will set me free. Have you ever found yourself identifying with these words?

2. Use your notes to review this week's message. What challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Review our key texts: (Psalm 57 and Psalm 55)

- a. What verse or thought stands out to you the most? Why?
- b. How do we compare/contrast the idea that "stuff happens" to Christ-followers (see Ps. 55:9-11; Psalm 57:4) with the assurance of God's protection?
- c. Discuss the Psalmist's expressing of his emotions and thoughts. Psalm 55:1-5 What feelings are clearly evident? Is it always a good thing to be open about how you are really feeling? What are healthy boundaries and settings?
- d. What other emotions or perspectives are also present and how do these statements fit? Psalm 57:7,9
- e. Why do we think we may feel uncomfortable being totally transparent with God and venting our inner anger, frustrations and pain?
- f. What views of God identified in these two Psalms enable David to cry out? Discuss.

SO WHAT?...

4. What are some difficulties you are in right now? What are you feeling? How can we pray for you? Pray for each other.

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Darrell Winger @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, June 26/July 3, 2005