

LEAD ME, LORD // PSALM 5

From the series, Summer in the Psalms

Psalm 5 returns to the morning theme that was developed in Psalm 3. It also likely alludes to the events that are referenced in Psalm 3—David's conflict with his son Absalom and the attacks by his enemies. Psalm 5 is a model for God's people when they are assaulted by evil-doers.

Main Idea: Righteous living is the right response to moral attack.

It is not about what we do in the face of evil, but who we must be in the face of evil.

Five lessons on how to live a righteous life:

1. I must approach God in personal prayer (v. 1-3)

There are four qualities of note about David's prayer:

A) Urgency. David pleads with God to "give ear" and "give attention" to his prayer. We realize that we must take a daily approach to prayer. Prayer is so important that it should be how we both open the day and how we close it. **B) Submission.** David acknowledges the Lord as "my King and my God." A supernatural transformation occurs when we order our day around God, rather than attempting to order God around our day. **C) Persistence.** David repeats the phrase "in the morning." Prayer is not an event of a morning, but of every morning. **D) Expectancy.** David will "watch." He has the expectation that the Lord will act, that he will respond and validate David's prayer life.

2. I must separate from the wickedness of the world (v. 4-6)

David wants to separate himself from those who have separated themselves from God. The one who separates himself from wickedness will separate himself from **a) the pleasures of evil.** God does not delight in wickedness. We are called to love what God loves and to hate what God hates. We massage those affections of the heart through morning prayer. The righteous will also separate himself from **b) the place of evil.** The boastful will not stand before the Lord. You can only stand before God in your humility. The righteous will also be separated from **c) the permanence of evil.** God will destroy the bloodthirsty and those who speak lies in a destruction that is eternal (2 Thess. 1:9).

3. I must pursue holiness through humility (v. 7-8)

I will be numbered among the people of God because God has been kind to me—we don't get there through our own doing (Psalm 130). We fear God, not because of what he will do to us because of our sin, but because of what he will not do to us because of Christ. To live a life of righteousness is to live a dependent life. We must be led by God and shown how to live (Psalm 86:11).

4. I must look at the human condition in the mirror (v. 9-10)

We are all sinners. We were counted among the unrighteous, but our salvation was secured through Christ (1 Corinthians 6:11, Romans 5: 10). We must therefore understand **a) the profile of a sinner.** There is no truth in their mouths. They are destruction in miniature. But God is able to perform transformative surgery on the soul. We also see **b) the punishment of a sinner.** There is gospel hope in this verse. While the psalmist asks God to make the wicked "bear their guilt," we know that a sinless Christ would bear the guilt for the salvation of many.

5. I must believe God has my best interests in mind (v. 11-12)

The cross life is the Christian life. The life Christ is calling you to is not an easy life, but it is worth it. We need more crucified lives—more marriages and families and relationships in which we are putting to death the self. We cannot live the righteous life on our own. This is why God sends the Holy Spirit. He is the wind in our sails and the shield over our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are we easily led? Although we as a church may be easy to lead, would the Lord say the same about each of us individually?
2. Are you willing to obey the Lord in the areas of your life that you have currently ceded to the world? What is it in your life that's running rogue?
3. Do we pray like David prays? How can we make this kind of prayer a part of our lives?