

A large, leafy tree stands in a field of tall grass. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden glow that filters through the leaves. The text is overlaid on the scene.

The Psalms
Songs and Prayers
of Worship

Summer Sermon Series



The Psalms

*Songs and Prayers
of Worship*

Psalm 55

The Burden of Betrayal

Context

- 1 Chron. 27:33** Ahithophel as David's counselor
- 2 Samuel 15-18** **Absalom's Revolt against David**
- 2 Sam. 15:12** Ahithophel secretly joins Absalom
- 2 Sam. 15:30-37** David learns of Ahithophel's betrayal, calls out to the LORD, and sends Hushai to the palace as a "double agent"
- 2 Sam. 16:20-23** Ahithophel's gives wicked counsel to Absalom regarding David's female servants

Exposition

Psalm 55:1-8

*A Burdened Believer
Cries Out to the LORD*

Exposition

1 Give ear to my prayer, O God,
[and] hide not Yourself from my plea for mercy!

2 Attend to me,
[and] answer me;

Exposition

3 I am restless in my complaint
[and] I moan,
because of the noise
of the enemy,
because of the oppression
of the wicked.
for they drop trouble on me,
[and] in anger they bear a grudge against me.

Exposition

- 4 My heart is in anguish within me,
the terrors of death have fallen upon me,
- 5 Fear and trembling come upon me,
[and] horror overwhelms me.

Exposition

6 And I say,
 *“Oh that I had wings like a dove!
 I would fly away and be at rest;
7 yes, I would wander far away;
 I would lodge in the wilderness;
8 I would hurry to find a shelter
 from the raging wind
 [and] temptest.”*

Observations

**It is good for God's people
to cry out to Him for help
with their burdens.**

Exposition

Psalm 55:9-11

*A Burdened Believer
Seeks Justice from the LORD*

Exposition

- 9 Destroy, O LORD,
divide their tongues;
for I see **violence** and **strife** in the city.
- 10 Day and night they go around it on its walls,
[and] **iniquity**
[and] **trouble** are within it;
- 11 **ruin** is in its midst;
oppression
[and] **fraud** do not depart from its marketplace.

Observations

**It is good for God's people
to cry out to Him for justice
when oppressed
by their enemies.**

Exposition

Psalm 55:12-15

A Burdened Believer

Laments the Agony of Betrayal

Exposition

12 For it is not any enemy
 who taunts me—
 then I could bear it;
it is not an adversary
 who deals insolently with me—
 then I could hide it from him.

Exposition

13 **But it is you,**

a man,
my equal,
my companion,
my familiar friend.

14 We used to take sweet counsel together;
within God's house we walked in the throng.

Exposition

- 15** Let death steal over them;
let them go down to Sheol alive;
for evil is in their dwelling place
[and] in their heart.

Observations

**It is good for God's people
to lament the sin of those
who betray them.**

Exposition

Psalm 55:16-19

*A Burdened Believer
Trusts in the LORD's
Redemption and Judgment*

Exposition

16 But I call to God,
[and] **the LORD will save me.**

17 Evening
[and] morning
[and] at noon
I utter my complaint
[and] moan
[and] **He hears my voice.**

Exposition

18 He redeems my soul in safety
from the battle that I rage
for many are arrayed against me.

19 God will give ear
[and] humble them,
He who is enthroned from of old,
because they do not change,
[and] do not fear God.

Observations

**It is good for God's people
to trust the timing
of His redemption
and judgment.**

Exposition

Psalm 55:20-21

*A Burdened Believer
Laments the Treachery
of a Former Companion*

Exposition

20 My companion

stretched out his hand against his friends;
He violated his covenant.

21

His speech was smooth as butter,
yet war was in his heart;
his words were softer than oil,
yet they were drawn swords.

Observations

**It is good for God's people
to learn and avoid
the sinful actions
of the wicked.**

Exposition

Psalm 55:22-23

***Instruction for
the Burdened Believer***

Exposition

22 Cast your burden on the LORD

[and]

He will sustain you;

He will never permit the righteous
to be moved.

Exposition

23 But You, O God,
will cast them down
into the pit of destruction;
men of blood and treachery
shall not live out half their days.
But I will trust in You.

BIG IDEA:

Cast your burden
on the the LORD—
He never betrays His own.

Context

2 Sam. 17:1-4 – Ahithophel suggests a wise and swift military operation to kill David that very night!

2 Sam. 17:5-14 – God uses Hushai to influence Absalom to follow a slower & more destructive plan

2 Sam. 17:15-22 – David gets word from Hushai and flees into the safety of the wilderness

2 Sam. 17:23 – Ahithophel commits suicide once he hears that David made it safely to the wilderness

BIG IDEA:

Cast your burden
on the the LORD—
He never betrays His own.

Observations

God can use the sinful actions
of others towards us
for His glory
and for our good.

Observations

Jesus faced the worst betrayal
that the world has ever known
when He was
“betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

But as Jesus went to the cross,
His Father used that betrayal and
sorrow for eternal good!

1 Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore,
under the mighty hand of God
so that at the proper time
He may exalt you,
casting all your anxieties on Him,
because He cares for you.

BIG IDEA:

Cast your burden
on the the LORD—
He never betrays His own.

Application

As you cast your burdens on the LORD, seek His grace to keep you from sinning.

Application

2. As you cast your burdens on the LORD, trust that His plan for you is always His best for you.

Application

As you cast your burdens on
the LORD, remember that
you are never alone
if you are **in Christ.**

BIG IDEA:

Cast your burden
on the the LORD—
He never betrays His own.