

*Taste and See that the Lord is Good*  
*Psalm 34*

*“...so becoming a Christian does not mean a trouble free existence. P.C. Craigie writes, ‘The fear of the Lord is indeed the foundation of life, the key to joy in life and long and happy days. But it is not a guarantee that life will be always easy.... It may mend the broken heart, but it does not prevent the heart from being broken; it may restore the spiritually crushed, but it does not crush the forces that may create the oppression.’ Deliverance is one thing. Exemption from trouble is another... what is essential is deliverance from the eternal punishment due us for our sins, and for that deliverance we must look to Jesus Christ... no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him. Why not? Because Jesus has taken that condemnation in our place.” Boice*

- I. Psalm 34 puts Psalm 5 into practice. It speaks of absolute dependence on the Lord in the most difficult of circumstances, it speaks of having a very strong and trusting relationship with the Lord that doesn't vacillate with the circumstances, and it shows us that David had no desire to look elsewhere for wisdom, guidance and direction. He knew that God was right there with him throughout the “craziness” he was dealing with.

1 Sam. 21:10-15

**Ps. 5:2** *Listen to my cry for help, my king and my God, for to you I pray.*

- II. Remember what David had just been going through. He was forced to leave his wife Michal and his best friend Jonathan in order to keep Saul from killing him. He was homeless and on the run, not knowing where to go or what to do. The circumstances he found himself in are hard to imagine. They must have been very despairing, frightening and uncertain. And having just escaped with his life from Gath, he now finds himself sitting alone in a cave having lost everything except for his love for the Lord. Yet, there isn't even a hint of bitterness or anger, nor a hint of why me Lord? Instead **he chooses** to turn to God face-to-face and worship him.

Ps. 34:1-10

Ps. 5:3

1 Sam. 22:1-2

2 Kings 6:14-17

*"This is important. the promise of prayer does not mean that God will change every difficult thing in your life. But he will preserve you for as long as he has work for you to do, and he will transform even the difficult circumstances by his presence and perhaps by the presence of others whom he sends to be with you." Boice*

- III. David's strong dependent relationship with the Lord was based on his willingness to put into practice what it means to "fear the Lord." He challenges us to "taste God" by ingesting him and all that he has to offer, so that he becomes a part of who we are in relationship. Salvation means that the Lord becomes our refuge throughout life.

Ps. 34:11-22

Prov. 9:10

John 6:53

*"His eyes and ears are thus both turned by the Lord towards his saints; his whole mind is occupied about them: if slighted by all others they are not neglected by him. Their cry he hears at once, even as a mother is sure to hear her sick babe; the cry may be broken, plaintive, unhappy, feeble, unbelieving, yet the Father's quick ear catches each note of lament or appeal, and he is not slow to answer his children's voice." Spurgeon*