

*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 David's absolute dependence on the Lord in the most difficult of circumstances. It speaks of him having a very strong and trusting relationship with the Lord despite what he was going through. It shows us that David had no desire to look elsewhere for wisdom and guidance without first consulting with the Lord through prayer. He knew that God was right there with him throughout the “craziness” he was dealing with, which kept him focused and dependent upon Him.

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. David was forced to leave his wife Michal and his best friend Jonathan 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 his love for the Lord. As he writes Psalm 34, there isn't even a hint of bitterness or anger in his attitude, nor a hint of why me Lord? Instead, **he chooses** to turn to God and worship him knowing that He was with him the whole time. He was confident of the fact that God would neither leave nor forsake 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*

**Deut. 31:6** *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

- III. David's strong dependent relationship with the Lord was based on his willingness to put into practice what it meant to fear the Lord. He challenges us to taste and see that the Lord is good through obedience and dependence on Him. He's exhorting us to make God a refuge in all matters through prayer knowing that he will hears us, protects us, and save us from the many troubles we will face. In other words, to make God our refuge means that we are to trust Him to be there for us no matter what might come our way.

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*