Psalm 3: A Shield about Me

Zanesville, OH | November 4, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Psalm 3

**Intro**:

* Psalm 3 is an individual Psalm of Lament and the first Psalm of lament we encounter in the book of Psalms. It is a Psalm of David that pertains to particular situation of historical dilemma in the life of this great King. The circumstances pertaining to the composition of this Psalm deal closely with the events pertaining to Absalom after which the Psalm is titled (cf. 2 Sam. 15-18). This, not surprisingly, comes at a time in David’s life when he is facing multiple scenarios of crises largely due to his sin against God (cf. 2 Sam. 11:9-11). Yet, in the midst of such turmoil and troubling circumstances, David composes this Psalm demonstrating his complete and fervent trust in the Lord.

**The Breakdown of Psalm 3**

1. **Down in the pit: Psalm 3:1-2**
   1. David commences by pouring his heart out to God in lamentation (vv. 1-2). He is overwhelmed by his enemies and those who are seeking his life (cf. 2 Sam. 15:12-14; 16:5-13, 21; 17:1-4, 11-13; 18:7). Notice that the consequences of sin are overwhelming.
   2. In the midst of trials and difficulties, devastation and crises, heartache and heartbreak, it can be hard to see the *“light at the end of the tunnel.”* While David still had some good and trusted men around him (cf. 2 Sam. 15:19 –16:4), those who were against him just seemed to be too much and too overwhelming (v. 2).
   3. When we fall, fail and are down in the pit, negative comments and depressing advice will only make things worse. There were many who kept telling David *“there is no way out”,* *“you’re not going to make it”,* *“God won’t deliver you.”*
2. **God is a Shield to His people: Psalm 3:3-6**
   1. Despite how gloomy, difficult and impossible it seemed to get out of such a pit, David turned to the best source for help: **GOD!** David does not doubt God’s deliverance and His help for he knows what He can do (cf. 1 Sam. 17).
   2. David describes God as a shield that surrounds him i.e. God is His protection (v.3; Job 1:9-10). David could have easily chosen to rely on his soldiers and his trusted men for help (a lot of Kings did) but he chose God instead. He knew better (1 Pet. 2:23).
   3. David acknowledges that God is his glory and He who is able to lift up his head (v. 4). This is not the only time David has been down in the trenches (cf. 1 Sam. 23-24; 26). He takes hope in the fact that God has delivered Him before and He will do it again.
   4. David cries out to God and He answers Him from His holy mountain (v. 4; Psa. 2:6). In such times of distress, we learn to appreciate things in life we often take for granted (v. 5).
   5. Because God is his shield, his glory, the one who answers prayers and the one who sustains him, he has nothing to fear (2 Kings 6:8-17; 2 Chron. 32:7-8)! Though your enemies and the evil that we face may seem too great to overcome, our God is much bigger and more powerful, and He will overcome (cf. Revelation).
3. **Salvation belongs to God: Psalm 3:7-8**
   1. Notice that one of the greatest Kings of Israel is pictured as seeking deliverance from elsewhere (God) and not from himself. Our job is to seek God and trust God. His realm is salvation and deliverance.
   2. David once again reveals that God has helped him in the past mightily and thus, He does not doubt He can do it again (v. 7). God is pictured as completely dominating and annihilating His enemies.
   3. The final verse, to be sure, places salvation solely as a matter God is in control of. Salvation is God’s doing and His business. He is capable of saving and delivering far beyond what we can do or imagine (cf. Acts 4:9-12; Rev. 19:1).
   4. If you are down in the pit and need help, who better to turn to than God? Are you overwhelmed by the sin in your life and the consequences it brings? God wants to help you and save you from that. Let’s do our part to seek God and let us trust in Him to save!