

March 22, 2020

Sermon Title: When a Crisis Comes, Rest in God Alone

Today's Scripture: Psalm 62

Introduction: Our current crisis is creating a panic unlike anything I have ever seen. Thanks to the MSM a little worry has morphed into toilet paper hoarding zombies fighting with one another at Costco. I pray that no one in any of those stupid fights is a professing believer and I can guarantee that none of them are true believers.

Main point: In a time of great crisis, supernatural peace comes from trusting in God alone.

Psalm 62

Context: David's life is hanging by a thread. It could have been any number of times. Perhaps when Saul threw his spear and narrowly missed David by inches attempting to pin him to the wall. Maybe it was the time Saul sent assassins to David's house to kill him through treachery. Maybe it was the time David and his men were on one side of the mountain and Saul's men on the other. Most likely however it was probably palace intrigue when a trusted friend stabbed him in the back or when Absalom attempted a coup. The particular incident doesn't matter. His life was frequently in danger. None of us have face dangers like this so the current one we are in is 10 times less threatening than the ones he faced.

- 1. In the most absolute sense, we need to trust in God and nothing else for our protection. For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.**
 - When David says he waits in silence he means total submission. He is not protesting or complaining, he is humbled before God.
 - In our current crisis we are trusting that President Trump and Vice President Pence are making all the right decisions.
 - We are trusting in the drug companies that they will get a vaccine quickly in time to protect us and our children and grandchildren.
 - We are trusting in social distancing to protect us not knowing if the people we must visit at the grocery store are already infected and whether or not the key pad which you punch your pin number is clean!!
 - We trust in our doctors to make the best decisions and treatments.
 - Why? It's O.K. to take precautions and pray for wisdom, but don't trust in those things – not at all. If you are stressed out and think that your isolation is going to keep you alive and that helps you get to sleep a little faster, you are trusting something other than God.

- Besides, my biggest point of all would be why fret at all? Don't we want to see our Savior soon? Can we not by faith know that eternity is so, so much better than all we have now? That's the point of saying God is my rock and salvation. Yes, the context speaks of David being rescued from evil men, but the larger picture is God delivering us from our sins and hell. He does it all. The passage does not say God and I are my salvation, but God alone. The word alone is the main word in this psalm used 6 times.
2. **The enemies of righteousness play dirty.** How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. Selah
- David's enemies wouldn't be attacking him if they felt he was invincible. He wasn't. He had faults. He depended too much on God rather than on making deals and offering packages of elite status to those who could cause him harm. He foolishly believed that God was in control and his enemies thought he was stupid to be putting his trust in him. They truly believed David was a teetering wall.
 - They used deceit to gain his trust before they stabbed him in the back. Hey doesn't that sound like Satan?
 - I often read these passages written by David and think how relevant they are to our current president who is being attacked on every side and world leaders mock him and President Xi of China plays the role of cute Panda. Panda bears are not to be trusted.
 - In case you need repetition here it is again. For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Notice the word "my". To David God is not some impersonal force. He is real. He communicates. He leads. He reassures. He answers prayer.
3. Our peace needs to be shared. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah
- David wasn't the only one being threatened. If they toppled him the whole government would fall. The coup would succeed the whole country would fall into a panic and fear would be everywhere.
 - In this time of uncertainty we Christians have a great opportunity to show our non-Christian friends that peace and safety is available, but can only be found in one place. If you are on Facebook, you need to be alerting people to your own source of peace and where they can find theirs.

4. Substitutes for God's protection are worthless. Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.
- Low estate are the thugs who can be hired to take out your opponents. They are unreliable.
 - High estate are those of power and influence, such as senators who sell their hotel stocks and airline stocks when they get a briefing on Corona virus. Shame on them. They belong in prison. They only use their power to benefit themselves.
 - Both of these kind are lighter than air. If you put them all on a scale balance they will go up even if there is nothing on the other side.
 - Sometimes we are tempted to trust in evil schemes to protect ourselves. David warns us not to trust in extortion or robbery to protect our nest eggs. Pati and I used a broker in Cedar Rapids Iowa to handle our accounts. We along with hundreds of others were swindled out of all our money because he started using client funds as if they were his own, forging bank statements to his board to hide it all. He was going under and trying to save his firm he thought he could rob his clients and hit it big in the futures market. What a joke.
 - In our current situation riches can't protect us from a virus. Millions in savings can't keep a virus from making you sick.
5. Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work. (ESV)