

## **HELP FROM ON HIGH**

Thursday, April 19

Reading: Psalm 54

***Psalm 54:1** Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might. **2** Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth. **3** Arrogant foes are attacking me; ruthless people are trying to kill me— people without regard for God. **4** Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.*

Once again the title of Psalm 54 gives us the situation in which it was written. In 1 Samuel 23 we read that David is hiding from King Saul in the hill country of Ziph. He and his men had even protected Israelites in the area from the Philistines. However, these people report to Saul of David's whereabouts, giving him very detailed directions. What makes this action worse is that the Ziphites were from the tribe of Judah - David's own tribe. These were relations to David, yet they betrayed him to his enemy.

Saul's army and David's men play a little "cat-and-mouse" before Saul appears to have finally trapped David. But before he can attack, news arrives that the Philistines were raiding Israel's borders forcing Saul to abandon his pursuit of David to deal with the Philistine invasion. Through no actions of his own, David is rescued by God through the acts of the Philistine army.

The most common prayer we pray is "Lord, save me!" In the midst of the betrayal of his own countrymen and the hatred of King Saul, this is what David prays. Notice the four ways David prays for God to save him. It is a guide for us when we face times of trouble.

"Vindicate me!" (54:1). These attacks were not because David had sinned or done anything to provoke his enemies. He is innocent and knows that God will defend him and prove his cause to be just. When we face opposition, do we allow God to defend us or do we try to argue our innocence with our own wisdom and ability?

"Help me!" (54:3-4a). David knew his enemies had no concern for God and His plan. Everyone knew that God had anointed David to be the next king. God's plan for David's life gave him the confidence that God would help him. Do we trust in God's plan for our life? If we are following His leading than we can have confidence that God is with us to help us.

"Sustain me!" (54:4b). David knew he could not stand against King Saul and the rest of his enemies in his own strength. If God was not with him, all was lost. But David took courage in the fact that God was on his side. Jesus promised His followers that He will never leave or forsake us. Do we trust in His power to sustain us when hard times come?

"Avenge me!" (54:5). The words "let evil recoil" tells us that David understood the nature of evil. Those who practice evil will eventually have it turn on them and the consequences fall on their own heads. David is praying for God's justice to be done here. We know that David will not personally act against his enemies for after this event he has two opportunities to kill Saul and he refuses to do so (see 1 Samuel 24 & 26). David would praise God when he is delivered but would not take vengeance into his own hands. Are you willing to patiently wait for God's timing and deliverance?

**THRU THE BIBLE Reading: 1 Samuel 4-6; John 11**