The All-Encompassing Gospel

4/30/18

Psalm 40

Over the course of my life as I have read the Psalms, I have loved what they said, but never quite understood the connection with us who live post life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. How does David's experience in the Old Testament mirror or even impact ours, or more specifically mine, especially in light of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to us as believers?

Add to that a question that a young lady in our growth group asked last week, "Are the Psalms talking about David or Jesus?" It can get confusing.

I think Psalm 40 illustrates well the overlap. David says some things that seem to apply directly to his life, but they are quoted in the New Testament as applying to Jesus as well.

There are a few key things to consider.

1. While we can learn from all of the characters in the OT, David is unique. He is a very clear type of Christ, and he is the one who is promised an eternal kingdom. He is the one from whom the king who would rule forever was to come. That is why it is so important to trace Jesus' physical lineage from David, and why Matthew makes such an emphasis on that.

2. The New Testament helps build a bridge between David and Christ. 1 Peter 10-12 helps us understand how the prophets knew what was coming. They may not have known all the details, but they certainly understood enough to know that there was a future time when God was going to provide the Messiah. They wrote about things that were far beyond their personal experiences. 2 Peter 1:16-21 gives us more insight into what God was doing through the prophets as He inspired them to write His Holy Word.

3. The writer of Hebrews gives us a very clear explanation of how what was said about David applies to Jesus. See Hebrews 10:1-18. Just like David was a type pointing to the future eternal king, the sacrificial system and the system of priests were types pointing to the eternal sacrifice of Jesus and His eternal priestly role.

Given that tie between the life of David and the life and ministry of Christ, how do David's words in the Psalms impact our lives, or express our experience in walking with God

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How do the first five verses describe our walk with God?

2. How do we experience the gospel in a "once for all time sense", but also in an "ongoing sense"?

3. What does it mean that God does not delight in sacrifices and offerings? Wasn't the nation of Israel commanded to make sacrifices and offerings?

4. What is the connection for David between experiencing God's deliverance and worship? How does his worship impact others?

5. How does David experience God's steadfast mercy, love, and faithfulness in the midst of what he calls evils in verses 11-17?

6. How can David's response in verses 16 and 17 mirror our response? Perhaps more accurately, how can our response mirror David's response?