

WHAT TO DO WHEN LIFE GETS MESSY

Psalms 118:5-9

July 13, 2008 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

- A. Incredibles Movie quote
- B. Our lives often seem like a mess and we just get out of one only to get into another.
- C. The Psalmist's (perhaps King David) life was a mess too (Ps 118).
- D. What can he tell us about surviving a messy life?

I. FIRST, HE REMINDS US THAT NONE OF US HAS AN EASY LIFE.

- A. The Psalmist didn't have an easy life--5a "In my anguish" KJV "in distress".
- B. You know what the international distress call is ----SOS.
 - 1. In 1906 when wireless transmitters were first invented the original distress signal was CQD meaning "Seek you, Danger". However, its assortment of dashes and dots were complicated and sometimes unrecognizable.
 - 2. The new and simpler signal of SOS was soon introduced so there would be no mistaking what three dots, three dashes, and three dots meant.
- C. When we are in distress, the Psalmist says we should send out a simple distress signal to God--5b "I cried to the Lord".
- D. Illustration: Call Dad first.
- E. Are you in distress today? Bad economy, gasoline prices, a gallon of milk higher than gas, job on the line, marriage or family in turmoil, friendship destroyed, etc.
 - 1. Our first call should be to our heavenly Father--Jeremiah 33:3.
 - 2. God answered the Psalmist's distress signal--5c.
 - a. God doesn't always keep us from danger.
 - b. He does, however, keep us "in" danger.

II. SECOND, HE REMINDS US THAT GOD IS WITH US WHEN LIFE GETS MESSY.

- A. This is what he says--6a KJV "The Lord is on my side"
 - 1. Some people will always be on our side--family, dear friends, fellow Christians.
 - 2. Some people won't--people we thought were our friends, etc.
 - 3. God, however, is always on our side.
- B. The Bible says this many times and in many ways so we won't forget. Matthew 28:20; Romans 8:31-32; Hebrews 13:5.

III. THIRD, HE REVEALS THAT FEAR IS A COMMON RESPONSE TO OUR MESSES.

- A. He says so--6b.
 - 1. He isn't saying he never experiences fear. We all do.
 - 2. Instead he is saying that fear will not overcome or control him.
- B. Other people can create trouble for us but God alone is in control--Matthew 10:28-31; Psalms 27:1; Psalms 118:8-9.
 - 1. Some ladies here today may agree that you can't trust a man!
 - 2. The word really means "people", however.
 - 3. We can't even trust people in places of power or authority--"princes"---employers or politicians. The old saying goes, "You can't trust politicians", yet every election cycle we look for someone to deliver on their campaign promises.
 - 4. The Psalmist's point is that God is the only one we can really trust.

CONCLUSION

- A. Is your life a mess today? Are you in distress?
- B. Send out a distress signal to the only one who can help you--God.
 - 1. He is on your side.
 - 2. You can trust him to help.