

A Talk With God – Psalm 4

September 17, 2017
Psalm 4

Oakbrook Community Church
Pastor Mark W. Turner

A Psalm of Lament & Confidence

- We can all identify with these attacks!
- We are all sinful & often deserve it. Christ didn't - Heb 4:15
- Our world often 'picks on' those who are righteous. 1 Pet 2:21-23.

THE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THIS PSALM:

A Plea for Help

1

- David cries out to the Lord, not to others!
- David's plea is HONEST. God knows all his faults
- David's plea is BALANCED. He appeals on the basis of God's righteousness – the hope of the Gospel and God's mercy. Exodus 34:6-7

A Message to His Enemies

2-5

- David speaks kindly & with truth
- David's focus is God's choice v3 "set-apart". Phil 1:6; Eph 1:4-10
- V4: be angry (ESV, NIV, NKJV) vs. tremble (NAS, NRSV, KJV)
 - be angry – Paul used this Eph 4:26 - but don't let it lead to sin
 - tremble – stand in awe before God & therefore cease sinning
- V5: offer right sacrifices – 1 Sam 15:22

A Contented Peace in God

6-8

- God assured His blessing - Aaronic blessing: Num 6:24-26
- God fills His own with joy – nothing on earth can satisfy like Gospel truth
- God grants peace & rest amidst turmoil – all humanity seeks this

Discuss:

- Do you think this is a lament or a psalm of confidence? Why?
- What situations cause you the most anguish in life? When do you feel most defeated & beat down?
- What 4 things does David ask of God in v1?
- What might be causing his anguish? How might you relate to his situation?
- How is David's plea honest? Balanced? Does he see himself as perfect?
- Read Exodus 34:6-7. Can you come to this merciful God? How?
- Do you think he wanted to address his enemies directly in v2-5? How does talking to God help?
- Consider the two options for v4: be angry vs. tremble. Discuss
- Describe a time you had a contented peace in God in turmoil.

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