



Pastor's Update

Psalm 55 **“Oh, That I Had Wings Like a Dove!”**

Title: for the Leader; with instrumental music. A Maskil of David.

I. Despair (55:1-8)

A. The psalmist appeals to God to hear him in his distress (vv. 1-3a).

Give ear, Give heed, do not hide Yourself, answer me

B. He describes his distress and its effect upon him (vv. 3b-5).

- The chief weapon of the enemies is the mouth (vv. 3, 9; see Ps. 56:5; 57:4; 58:1, 3-6; 59:6, 7, 12, 14, 15).
- pressure, trouble, anguish, terrors of death, fear and trembling, overwhelmed
- restless – (mourn) the restlessness of a distracted mind.

C. He expresses his longing to escape to some quiet refuge (vv. 6-8).

Dove (Hebrew – Yonah = Jonah). I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest (v. 8).

“...the reason why the Psalmist prefers the dove to other birds is, that while they become weary with flying, and alight upon a rock or a tree to recruit their strength, and are taken; the dove, when she is fatigued, alternately rests on one wing and flies with the other, and by this means escapes from the swiftest pursuers” (Payton’s Illustrations of Scripture, page 456).

- “Weary of his life in the cruel city, he wishes he could be like the dove which he watches winging its flight swiftly to its nest in the clefts of some inaccessible precipice, far from the haunts of men” (Song of Song 2:14) – Kirkpatrick, Psalms.
- “the storms” of faction and party spirit in the city

II. Indignation (55:9-15)

A. He invokes confusion on the counsels of his enemies and describes the tyranny in the city (vv. 9-11).

- confuse – Literally it means “swallow up” (Gen. 11:7-9; Isa. 3:12; 19:3; 28:7)
- The tyranny of the city: violence, strife, iniquity, mischief, destruction, oppression, deceit

B. He identifies the leader of the faction (vv. 12-14).

- ...not an enemy...nor one who hates me... (cf. Psa. 54:3)
- ...but a man my equal...my companion...my familiar friend...
- ...we had sweet fellowship...walked in the house of God in the throng... (cf. See also 2Sam. 15:12; Job 19:13, 19; Psa. 41:9; Jer. 20:10; Mic. 7:5; Matt. 26:23; Lk. 22:21; Jn. 13:18).

C. He prays that his enemies meet their fate... (v. 15).

III. Trust (55:16-23)

A. He expresses his confidence that God will deliver him (vv. 16-19).

B. He describes the hypocrisy of the arch-traitor (vv. 20-21).

C. He contemplates Jehovah’s care of the righteous and his judgment on the wicked (vv. 22-23).

- cast your burden on the LORD. The Hebrew term for burden means “that which he has given you”
- He shall sustain you – not necessarily removing the burden, but giving strength to bear it, upholding you lest you should fall under its weight (see 1 Pet. 5:7; Matt. 11:28-30)

He shall never allow the righteous to be shaken – though they may be in distress for a while, there will be an end to their suffering – Kirkpatrick.

Lesson: The same God who destroys the wicked is the One in whom His people put their trust.

By God’s Grace and for His glory,

Pr. Francis