

Psalm 34

- **Intro:**
 - Taster—wine tasting, coffee cupping, etc.
 - I am a taster...a sampler. Anyone who knows me well knows that I love to sample everybody's plate...no food is safe.
 - God is FOR THIS! He is inviting us IN today to come...to TASTE.
- **Overview:**
 - Based on 1 Samuel 21:10-15—David pretending to be insane before Abimelech. David was fleeing King Saul and left his land to go to the distant coastal lands.
 - Probably written from a cave after he had fled and failed to trust God but rather trusted his own cunning.
 - Quoted 2 times in NT:
 - v.12-16—quoted by Peter speaking of promise of God's blessing on the godly (1 Peter 3:10-12)
 - v.20—quoted by John as having been fulfilled in the crucifixion of Christ (John 19:36)
- **Key Theme: Deliverance (4 Times)**
 - v.4—he delivers us from our fears
 - v.7—he delivers us from our enemies
 - v.17 and v.19—he delivers us from our many troubles
- **2 Clear Parts:**
 - v.1-10—A Hymn—encouragement to praise and trust in God
 - v.11-22—A Sermon—wise life application flowing from David's experience
- **Don't Hesitate to Praise God for his Deliverance (v.1-3)**
 - **v.1-3—David Blesses the Lord**
 - v.1—begins with David praising God and then in verse 3 he invites others into it.
 - Modern Application—corporate worship
 - “at all times”—if he indeed is in a cave, fleeing King Saul having just failed to trust God, then this speaks huge volumes to how and when we praise—ALWAYS!
 - v.2—my “soul makes its boast”—this is far more than a mere tongue making statements. This is the heart, the soul making much of the nature, character, attributes of God.
 - v.3—come magnify the Lord with me—who better can make much of Jesus than one who is admittedly SMALL, WEAK, NEEDY.
 - The local church gathered in worship is the highest form of obedience to this.
 - **Lewis Quote**—But the most obvious fact about praise — whether of God or anything — strangely escaped me. I thought of it in terms of compliment, approval, or the giving of honour. I had never noticed that *all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise* unless . . . shyness or the fear of boring others is deliberately brought in to check it. The world rings with praise — lovers praising their mistresses [Romeo praising Juliet and vice versa], readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favorite game — praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, motors, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, rare beetles, even sometimes politicians or scholars. . . . Except where intolerably adverse circumstances interfere, praise almost seems to be inner health made audible. . . . I had not noticed either that just as men spontaneously praise whatever they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it: “Isn't she lovely? Wasn't it glorious? Don't you think that magnificent?” The Psalmists in telling everyone to praise God are doing what all men do when they speak of what they care about....I think we delight to praise what we enjoy

because *the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation*. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with.

- To withhold praise is to minimize enjoyment—God is infinitely more worthy of our praise than wine, a meal or a pretty sight! May we praise him!
- **Remember and Recite Your Story of Salvation (v.4-7)**
 - v.4-7—David’s testimony of his experience of deliverance...he had been in a low place and had called on the Lord who answered and saved him.
 - 1 Sam. 21—David had just left Jonathan (he is alone); he is scared; he is in trouble
 - v.4—“I sought the Lord”—David, in the midst of his sin and folly, is seeking the Lord.
 - He just pretended to be insane before Abimelech to save his life. He was trembling with fear in a cave...yet he was seeking the Lord.
 - **v.5—those who look to him are radiant—This is the very CORE of our testimony**
 - Never once has a poor, sad, sin-sick soul looked upon the Savior and received anything but life, light, freedom, hope!
 - v.7—“this poor man” = this is a psalm for the weak, the vulnerable, the afraid, the failures, the alone.
 - Are you in a bad spot? Are you suffering? Are you wondering if anyone hears or cares? Receive the testimony of David in verses 4-7 as a reminder of God’s goodness and faithfulness.
 - **The Makeup of a Testimony:**
 - **TROUBLE**—fears (v.4) and troubles (v.6)
 - **PRAYER**—I sought the Lord (v.4) and the poor man cried (v.6)
 - **DELIVERANCE**—he answered me (v.4) and the Lord heard (v.6)
 - **PRAISE**—those who look to him are radiant (v.5)
- **Embrace and Extend the Invitation to Enjoy God (v.8-10)**
 - v.8-10—**ESSENTIALLY AN INVITATION INTO THE EXPERIENCE OF DELIVERANCE**
 - **v.8—“COME TAST AND SEE”—essentially...come experience this for yourself!**
 - Try God out—just like you would some excellent cuisine.
 - God desires for us to experience his goodness (v.8)
 - "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried." - Gilbert K. Chesterton
 - **How do you taste and see?**
 - **FAITH** is the way you spiritually taste—bank your faith in Christ. Rest all your hope for life and joy in him.
 - Application—have you tried Jesus? Have you tried the gospel? Make sure, if you say you are rejecting Jesus, that are rejecting the real thing!

- **Make the Connection between Your Joy and Your Pursuit of Holiness (v.11-18)**
 - **Main Idea: Experiencing God's Deliverance results in Enjoying God's Lordship**
 - David defines our response in terms of ACTION versus a feeling or emotion (such as reverence)
 - The fear of the Lord is enjoyment of the Lord and the way to enjoy him is to OBEY him.
 - The good that you enjoy (v.12) is directly connected to the good that you do (v.14)
 - This idea is aimed right at the lie first seen in Eden—that joy and goodness are found OUTSIDE rather than INSIDE the will of God.
- **Find Ultimate Joy in the Refuge of Jesus (v.19-22)**
 - v.19—the Father purchased our joy at the expense of his son!
 - v.22—moves from mere deliverance in this life to the notions of death and God's final redemption and deliverance from FINAL condemnation and judgment.
 - This is meant to lead us to glory in the final fulfillment of these things in the gospel!
 - **Momentary deliverance is held out here as GOOD but what we ultimately need is full and final deliverance which is ONLY FOUND IN JESUS!**
 - V.22—the Lord redeems his servants.—How? By Christ's death and resurrection
 - v.22—no one will be condemned who trusts in him—Why? Because he has taken ALL that condemnation in our place.
 - **Christ became everything that God MUST condemn in order that, by faith, we might become everything that God CANNOT condemn!**