

2021.02.21 Sunday Sermon <The Power of Hymn>

Psalm 135:1-3

¹ *Praise the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord; praise him, you servants of the Lord,*

² *you who minister in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.*

³ *Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.*

Psalm 22:1-3

For the director of music. To the tune of "The Doe of the Morning." A psalm of David.

¹ *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?* ² *My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.*

³ *Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.*

Today's passage in Hebrew is called Ayelet Hashachar, which means "hind of the dawn" or "doe of the morning". It is a solemn tune which portrays a deer being hunted. It is also known as David's hymn of suffering and foretelling Jesus Christ's suffering.

Praising is our privilege, blessing, and divine power provided by Our Father Lord. Just as you see the image on the screen of congregation members praising, I pray that wherever you are, we can continue to praise the Lord and lift His name up high.

1. Power to Overcome Difficult Circumstances

Psalm 34:1

Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelek, who drove him away, and he left.

¹ *I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.*

David went through many challenges in his life. In this particular chapter, in order to stay alive, he had to pretend to be insane before Abimelek. The strength that allowed David to overcome difficult circumstances was through praising the Lord.

The image you see on the screen is Paul and Silas captured in prison (Acts 16). While both were in prison, they prayed and gave praises unto God. Suddenly there was a great earthquake and all the doors opened and every one's bands were loosened. The praises they gave to the Lord provided strength to overcome their situation inside the prison. The same Lord who heard the praises of David and Paul is the same Father who will listen to our praises and provide us with great power and strength.

A speaker who overcame hardships and achieved great success, shared a story. When he was a child, there was a neighbor who often played the piano. One day he noticed she played one particular hymn (*I Must Tell Jesus All My Trials*) over and over. Later he found out she was facing a difficult circumstance and through this hymn she found healing. Ever since then, the speaker remember what the neighbor did and started to praise the Lord when he was facing trials and sufferings.

Cornelia Arnolda Johanna "Corrie" ten Boom (15 April 1892 – 15 April 1983) was a Dutch Christian watchmaker and later a writer who worked with her family members to help many Jews escape from the Nazis during the Holocaust in World War II by hiding them in her home. One day she was getting on a flight at Sydney Airport in Australia. Few hours later, she realized she left her bag with important property records at the airport. She asked the flight attendant to help her but they told her she will get it four days later. Even with this devastating news, she praised and thanked the Lord. During her praise, the pilot made an emergency announcement that

they have to return to Sydney Airport due to mechanical issue. Once they landed, Corrie ten Boom found her bag. One of the Jewish passenger who saw the entire incident reached out to Corrie and asked, "how were you able to stay calm during the entire flight?" She then shared the message of Jesus Christ and shared the power of hymns.

When you are faced with difficult circumstances, do not be down but praise the Lord. Cry out to Him and lift His name up high so that the Lord will provide you with strength to stay strong.

2. Power to Overcome Enemies

Psalm 18:46-48

⁴⁶ *The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior!*

⁴⁷ *He is the God who avenges me, who subdues nations under me,*

⁴⁸ *who saves me from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; from a violent man you rescued me.*

Aside from difficult circumstances, our enemies surround us can provide great challenges in our lives. We ourselves cannot win over them by drinking or gossiping. Only our Lord can help us drive away our enemies. Just as David received his strength through praising the Lord to fight off his enemies, we need to continue to praise and exalt the Lord.

Give thanks and praise to the Lord even when people hurt or trouble us - just as Jehoshaphat praised the Lord to defeat his enemies. Just as the Lord was with David and Jehoshaphat, He will be with all of us, this nation, and this world.

1 Chronicles 16:34

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

2 Chronicles 20:22

²² *As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.*

Sing Sing Correctional Facility is a maximum-security prison operated by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision in the village of Ossining, New York. One day a famous person came to the women's prison cell and everyone came out to listen to the speech. While everyone was trying sit along the corridor, there was a fight between an inmate and a female guard. The fight became bigger and the female guards asked the male guards to help. All of sudden a hymn (*Yield Not to Temptation*) was heard, and one by one the inmates followed the hymn and things started to calm.

*Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin
Each victory will help you or some others to win
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue
Look ever to Jesus and He'll carry you through
Just ask the Savior to help you
To comfort, strengthen and keep you
He is willing to aid you
And He will carry you through
Ask the Savior to help you
To comfort, strengthen and heal you
Oh, He is willing to aid you
Jesus will carry you through*

3. Power to Overcome Devils

The Lord provides us with power to overcome difficult circumstances and fight our enemies, but he even provides us with power to overcome the devils around us especially when we praise the Lord.

1 Samuel 16:23

²³ *Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.*

I would like to share with you a story that my wife experienced while she was in college. She and group of her friends went to a prayer center. Because this was during winter break, the center was filled and the center manager asked if one additional person can join their room. The new person was so skinny and she was constantly complaining about all the pastors out loud. My wife and her friends decided to sing hymns out loud. All of sudden the new person started screaming that she hates listening to hymns. She screamed so loud she passed out. However, as soon as the my wife and her friends stopped praising, the new person woke up and started to complaining about pastors again. The group realized the power of praise and started to praise louder non-stop. Few minutes later, the new person stopped complaining, picked-up her belongings, and left the room.

Let us all remember the power of hymns. Let us all praise the Lord to fight off the virus around the world. Let our praises to the Lord be heard in the Capital Hill, White House, and all over U.S. and the world.

In Summary

Just as David praised the Lord during difficult circumstances, Jesus Christ also praised the Lord during His sufferings.

Matthew 26:30

³⁰ *When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

We all need to praise the Lord to received the power to overcome difficult circumstances, enemies, and devils.

Psalms 145:2

² *Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever.*

Psalms 146:2

² *I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*