“I Will Awaken The Dawn!”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 8th, 2018

Text: Ps. 57 & Ps. 142

### Intro

1. Have you ever felt depressed, distressed or alone? (Caused by various reasons: health, financial, loneliness, relationships, family, dealing with loss, etc.)
   1. Sometimes in our depression, grief, and sorrow it easy to feel all alone!
   2. When in that “dark place” what did you do to get out?
   3. What can be done when we are depressed or sorrowful?
2. We can see David distressed to the point of being driven physically into caves.
   1. David saved Israel by killing Goliath, became a captain of the army and was victorious over the Philistines countless times. He was a man of faith and God was with him.
   2. But Saul’s jealousy and hatred drove David into hiding, reducing him to outlaw status.
   3. I Sam. 22:1-2: David “escapes” to the cave of Adullam. Here the once mighty captain of Israel’s host becomes a captain of outlaws and refugees! *(Type of Christ)*
   4. I Sam. 24:1-7: David and his men hid in the cave at Engedi where David encountered Saul, and spared his life, against the wishes of his men.
3. While in the caves, a physical dark place, David was in an emotional “dark place.”
   1. Ps. 57 & 142 were written while in a cave hiding from Saul, either at Adullam or Engedi.
   2. Ps. 57:6: “My soul is bowed down.” David was sorrowful (Ps. 142:6)
4. Though David was distressed, he knew it would pass, that God would see him through it.
   1. Ps. 57:4, 8: He says the night is full of danger but he will awaken to the dawn!
   2. Ps. 30:5b: “Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.”
5. Sometimes in the cave of our sorrow we have to weep through the night, but when we awaken to the dawn there is joy! *(There is a time for grieving or mourning – Eccl. 3:1-8)*

#### Attitude

* 1. *I Sam. 22:1-2 & I Sam. 24:1-7:* David was hiding in caves!
     1. He was God’s anointed to be king.
     2. He was a mighty man of valor.
     3. He was a man of faith in God.
     4. He was a captain of the army of Israel.
     5. He was King Saul’s son-in-law.
     6. *He was a fugitive hiding in a cave!*
  2. Ps. 142: He was distressed to the point his spirit was “overwhelmed” (Ps. 142:3).
     1. Ps. 142:4-5: He says though physical refuges have failed, God is his refuge.
     2. Ps. 142:6-7: He is full of sorrow (“brought very low”), and though his enemies are stronger, God is able to deliver.
  3. His attitude was one that despite his sorrow and grief, he would lean on God!
     1. He saw it as suffering through the night but awakening to the joy of the dawn! *(Ps. 30:5; 57:4, 8)*
  4. Sometimes when we are “brought very low” in our cave of sorrow, it is hard to see the end, but we must have the attitude of David to see the joy of the dawn!

#### Action

* 1. David wasn’t idle in the cave, just feeling sorry for himself; he was praising God!
     1. *Ps. 57 & 142* show that even though he was sorrowful, he was praising God and communing with Him.
  2. Sometimes, when people are distressed or feeling sorry for themselves, they act rashly.
  3. David was in control of his actions and stopped his men from harming Saul.
     1. I Sam. 24:4: David’s men took the event as God giving Saul to David and told him to end his misery. David just cut off a part of Saul’s robe.
     2. I Sam. 24:5-7: David felt bad about just cutting Saul’s robe!
     3. He restrained his men by saying it was not for him to harm the Lord’s anointed.
     4. He acted honorably and showed the utmost respect for the king, recognizing he was the Lord’s anointed.
     5. David was also anointed by God to be king but he would not remove Saul, but left that up to God.
  4. He showed complete faith in God to deliver him from Saul in His way in His timing.
     1. If David had taken Saul’s life, no telling if the army would accept him or not, and could have caused a civil war, while it would look as David was the usurper. But in God’s timing, Saul’s son was the usurper! *(II Sam. 2)*
     2. David, in his sorrow, drew near to God, and acted above reproach!
  5. When sorrowful, we are still responsible for our actions, & will be accountable to God.
  6. When in our “cave of sorrow” let us like David draw near to God and act honorably!

#### Look Ahead

* 1. Sometimes in the midst of depression and sorrow it is difficult to look beyond the present.
  2. David saw his distress as “passing” (Psalm 57)
     1. Ps. 57:1: He trusted in God to be his refuge till his “calamities have passed by.”
     2. Ps. 57:4: David felt he was lying down with danger all around. *(The weeping through the night – Ps. 30:5b)*
     3. Ps. 57:8: He didn’t dwell on the danger, but looked ahead to the deliverance of the dawn! *(The joy of the dawn – Ps. 30:5b)*
     4. He gives glory to God for seeing him through the night to the morning! (v9-11)
  3. No matter how bad we feel things are, we only need to look ahead past our present to see the “dawn” of the Lord!
     1. Rom. 8:18: Nothing we suffer in this life can compare to the joy we will have when Christ comes again!
     2. I Thess. 4:16-18: Saints are to comfort one another with that thought!
     3. Sometimes in life we must suffer through the night to see the dawn!
     4. IE: *Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) wrote our national anthem when he saw the flag at dawn! (Battle of Baltimore at Fort McHenry, Sept. 13-14, 1814)*
  4. When in our “cave of sorrow” let us like David look ahead to God’s deliverance, and trust we will “awaken the dawn!”

## Conclusion

1. David went from the caves and from being a captain of outlaws to the king of Israel!
   1. He trusted and waited on God and was exalted and blessed in his rule!
   2. God delivered him from Saul and from his enemies because as David recognized, God is stronger than any enemy!
   3. *I Sam. 22 (Ps. 18)* records David’s psalm of joy over God’s deliverance from his enemies and from the hand of Saul.
2. When we are depressed, or in sorrow and distress (for any reason), let us:
   1. Have the attitude of trust in God for deliverance!
   2. Act honorably despite the way we feel or our circumstances being poor.
   3. Look ahead past the “weeping of night” to the “joy of the dawn!” *(Ps. 30:5b)*
3. When we trust in Him, God can take us from our “cave of sorrow” and exalt us! (Js. 4:10)
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
5. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!