

Sermon outline notes: Psalm 103

Introduction

In this Psalm David is talking to himself, to his soul as he puts it. David is cataloguing the goodness of God, numbering God's blessings. He is reminding himself of the source of his prosperity, so as not to presume upon God's goodness and grace.

1) Why was David so sure that he had blessings to count? Vv 3-5.

- Rooted in his own personal experience. David had recently experienced some deliverance from illness, an illness he had brought upon himself by his moral failure. God had forgiven and healed David.
- David draws a direct line between his own experience and the experiences of the people of God in the Exodus story. He recognises the same pattern of divine grace. (Verse 8 is a direct quote from Exodus 34 v 6).

2) What particular blessings was David anxious to number in his list? Verses 9-14—summed up in a single word. 'Grace'

- (i) God's gracious reluctance to stay angry, v9.
- (ii) God's generous mercy, v 10.
- (iii) The sheer magnitude of God's love, v11.
- (iv) The comprehensiveness of God's forgiveness, v 12.
- (v) The tenderness of God's compassion, v 13.
- (vi) The intimacy of God's understanding, v 14.
- (vii) The utter dependability of God's faithfulness, vv 15-17.

This God is in sole control of the Universe, v19.

3) What response does David feel he owes to this God of blessing?

The answer is in that single word that David repeats four times in the last three verses- 'Praise'

Final thought

It's hard to imagine any one to be more blessed than David was, but I can assure you that every one of us who are Christians are more blessed than David. David knew little of the blessings that are ours in Jesus!

Points to Ponder

- 1) Share first reactions to the sermon.
- 2) Are you a thankful person? Do we take for granted God's blessings?
- 3) The phrase 'fear Him' is used in verses 11, 13 and 17. Is the Psalmist saying God's love is conditional? How do you understand these verses?

Notes: