

May 6

Psalms 4, 12, 20, 25, 32, 38

Psalm 4

Psalm 4 is an evening Psalm or prayer: "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety".

This Psalm helps us to meditate on God's fatherly care and to leave the troubles and causes of anxiety in His hands.

As a little girl, sometimes nighttime really scared me. My sister and I had our bedroom in the basement of our house and it was really dark down there. I can remember pulling the covers up over my head and singing, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine" until I fell asleep.

Knowing that God is near and wants to protect us and give us peace really does help when worry or fear sets in.

The psalmist teaches us that in our walk with God he can bring us to the point where we can sleep without fear. "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine".

Psalm 12

Psalm 12 is a prayer on behalf or by the people of God for deliverance from the deceptions and scheming of the godless. The Lord promises to protect his own, but he expects his children to live with the tensions resulting from a walk in faith: reliance on his promise and the reality of the ever-present sinfulness of man.

In verses 7-8 the Psalmist says "O Lord, you will keep us safe and protect us from such people forever."

This Psalm has a peaceful conclusion: regardless of the circumstances of life, God's children are assured of the special protection of their heavenly Father from the evil of the world in which they live. The wicked may turn the world upside down, but God will guard his own. He keeps them "safe" from the wicked.

Just a thought: this psalm contains no resolution to the problem of evil, but it recognizes that evil is under the full sovereignty of the Lord. He will care for his children.

Psalm 20

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God"!

Oh that we would live that way! It is so easy to put our trust in counterfeit gods. But verse 8 reads, "they are brought to their knees and fall". God stands firm, never changes. What a better choice!

Psalm 25

Psalm 25 is a wonderful prayer as are many of the Psalms. Sometimes when you don't know what to pray, pray God's words back to Him.

Psalm 32

Did you notice the effect that hiding sin had on David? In Psalm 32 he says that while he kept silent his bones wasted away. That's the power of guilt and it is thought that David got physically ill because of his refusal to deal with the sin in his life.

Ever felt sick to your stomach or panicky after sinning? It's just an awful feeling, isn't it? It's so much better to deal with it then to let it hang on and eat away at you. But, we tend to do that, don't we?

He calls his actions transgressions, which means a deliberate rebellious act intended to violate a law or standard that God has put in place. The idea is that you know where the boundary is and then you walk up to it and consciously step across the line and say, 'Okay, God, what are you going to do about it.' We all know a little about that kind of sin.

Then David talks about his iniquities. The Hebrew language is a picture language. The root word behind this term iniquity calls to mind an old gnarled tree branch all twisted around itself and impossible to straighten out. The idea is that our sin nature has got us so twisted up that even if we wanted to do the right thing we would not be able to. We are twisted by nature.

Then David uses the word "sin." The Hebrew and Greek words, which are translated as "sin" in our English Bibles have the same meaning. Literally, to sin is to fall short of the mark -- to aim in the right direction -- to let the arrow loose -- and to discover that it didn't make it to the target. That is a little scary when you think about it, because the target is the perfect nature of God, and if we reflect on that we will begin to realize that even the good things we do -- to the extent that they fall short of God's perfect standard -- are technically sin. No wonder the Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God," and no wonder the prophet said, "All our righteousness is as filthy rags before God."

God forgave David of his sin, but David had to live with the consequences of that event for the rest of his life. David's declining years were full of trouble and heartbreak, and much of that trouble was directly traceable to this one terrible lapse. God forgives, but He doesn't always remove the consequences. That is a sobering truth. But He does forgive!!!!

Psalm 38

Verses 21-22 are a prayer for reconciliation. The psalmist calls three times on the Lord and addresses him in three different ways.

He first addresses him as "Lord" – Yahweh, the covenant God who promises to be faithful to his children even when they have sinned against him.

"My God" is the 2nd way he addresses God – an endearing phrase, equivalent to my Father.

Thirdly he says, "Lord my Savior". – Master of the universe, who is powerful and able to save.

Since Yahweh has promised to be near, the psalmist prays, "Do not forsake me". Since a child of God needs the presence of his heavenly Father, the psalmist prays "be not far from me, O my god. Since he submits himself to the sovereignty of God, the psalmist prays, "come ,quickly to help O lord my savior.

We all sin. Everyday. Because of Jesus' blood, we have forgiveness. What a precious gift.

"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" Amen and Amen.