

2. Psalm 22

The God-Forsaken King

Personal Preparation

It's helpful if you can work through the preparation questions before your group meets each week.

Introduction

A number of Psalms focus on the theme of the suffering of God's anointed King. If you take the time to read the account of David's life in 1 Samuel, you'll start to see why. David comes to the throne of Israel the hard way – his predecessor, Saul, knows God's hand is on David, so tries desperately to destroy him. And it doesn't stop there. Once David becomes King, the Kingdom is regularly under attack from the outside – while his family is torn apart from within. Even worse, David's life is brought undone by his own willful sin. For David, the 'easy life' is a distant dream.

Think it over...

What's your 'easy life' dream? How distant does it seem?

The King's Lament

We're going to focus on Psalm 22 in this study. But here's another example of King David's lament from Psalm 25...

Psalm 25:15-22

- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- ¹⁷ The troubles of my heart have multiplied;
free me from my anguish.
- ¹⁸ Look upon my affliction and my distress
and take away all my sins.
- ¹⁹ See how my enemies have increased
and how fiercely they hate me!
- ²⁰ Guard my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.
- ²¹ May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope is in you.
- ²² Redeem Israel, O God,
from all their troubles!

Now **read Psalm 22**, and try to imagine the sort of situation David finds himself caught up in.

a) What is David's frustration in verses 1-2?

- b) What is his confidence in verses 3-5?
- c) What is his situation in verses 6-8?
- d) What is his confidence in verses 9-11?
- e) "Bashan" is a neighbouring enemy nation. What imagery is David using in verses 12-13?
- f) What is his reaction in verses 14-15?
- g) How does he describe his suffering in verses 16-18?
- h) What is his cry in verses 19-21?
- i) There is a distinct change of tone from verse 22. How would you describe it?
- j) What confidence is expressed in verse 24?
- k) What is the 'grand vision' of verse 27-31? (What will be the ultimate scope of the kingdom ruled by this once despised King?)

Look back through the Psalm. Were there any particular verses that reminded you of things that happen to Jesus in the New Testament? Make a note of them here, ready to discuss in your Growth Group meeting...

Growth Group Discussion 2

Welcome to your second Growth Group meeting for 2008 Remember, our goal is that your group will help you to grow to be a more committed, connected, clear-thinking and compassionate follower of Jesus. To help you 'connect' at this early stage in the year, maybe it's worth doing another 'ice breaker'... but it's optional!

Ice Breaker Exercise



- On the back page of this study guide you'll find a page for this exercise.
- Write your name at the top
- Then choose one word to fill in each category to describe yourself. eg carING, optimIST, capABLE...
- Hold up your page to share it with the group.
- Ask each other questions to draw out more information

Discussion

a) Do you have any overall observations or questions from your reading of the Psalm?

b) What verses did you note that reminded you of Jesus?

The suffering and anguish of King David is nothing compared to that of Jesus! In fact, as you read the Psalm there are some uncanny reminders of the cross!

c) Read Mark 15:31-34. Remember, in the eyes of everyone watching, Jesus is simply a rebel Galilean taking the punishment he deserves as a rebel leader. How does the fact that Jesus quotes this Psalm throw a different light on the scene?

d) Verses 12, 13, and 16 describe the kind of people surrounding David in his suffering. How does this 'typecast' the people surrounding Jesus in Mark 15:29-32?




e) Compare Psalm 22:18 with the scene in John 19:24. John makes the link explicit! What's your reaction to this?

f) Psalm 22 starts with the words “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me.” How does the way this Psalm ends help us look at the cross with optimism?

g) Psalm 22:22 pictures a time when the rule of this ‘pierced King’ would extend over all the nations. How does Hebrews 2:12 apply this verse of the Psalm?

h) In what ways do you think those outside the church (and sadly some in!) make the cross out to be an embarrassment and a failure? How does this affect their lives & salvation?

i) Are you ever tempted to be ashamed of this central Christian truth? How **should** our conversations and relationships be shaped by it? (You might want to read what Paul has to say in 1 Corinthians 1:18)

	<p>feb</p> <p>10 Pool Parties 16 Hymns of Praise 23 Working Bee</p>	 <p>Feb 29 John Chapman Seniors Lunch Friday Making the Most of the Rest of your Life</p>	
<p>Coming Up...</p> <p>This Saturday 2:30, Hymns of Praise at mpc. This Sunday 12:30, Newcomers Lunch at the Keyte's place. Sat, 23 Feb – Working Bee at mpc Sat, 23 Feb – Presbytery Visitation</p>		<p>For Prayer...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thank God that through Christ's faithfulness, suffering & resurrection, we may have life - Pray for those that don't know Jesus, that they would come to see God's work and plan in the cross. 	

Icebreaker Exercise 2

Hi. My name is

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