

The Lord Cares for Me
Psummer in the Psalms 2022
Psalm 27 | July 10, 2022

Do You Love Me?

- Helping the Barkers pack, 90's country song: *Check Yes or No*
 - "Do you love me? Do you wanna be my friend? And if you do, well then don't be afraid to take me by the hand if you want to. I think this is how love goes: check yes or no."
- Everyone experiences this: little kids, waiting to hear back on a job, romantic partner
 - "Swipe left for no"
- Nowhere more do people experience this than with God | Default fear "God, do you care?"

King David's Tensions

**Half of the psalms are written by David. His life circumstances shape his prayers.*

- Both overlooked and popular
- Both physical and emotional
- Both confident and uncertain

Highly Confident

Psalm 27 Of David.

- The "of David" is inspired scripture
- Lots of your bibles will have various headings that are not: CSB *My Stronghold*, ESV *The Lord is my Light and My Salvation*.
- Septuagint says *By David before he was anointed*. | Which time (of 3)?

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—whom should I dread? ²When evildoers came against me to devour my flesh, my foes and my enemies stumbled and fell. ³Though an army deploys against me, my heart will not be afraid; though a war breaks out against me, I will still be confident.

- Have you ever had one of those days? Highly productive at work? Costco in under 10 min?

⁴I have asked one thing from the Lord; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the Lord and seeking him in his temple.

- Think about Leviticus and how high of a bar it is to approach God. Confidence.
- This is a sincere desire! For all his faults, David was devoted to YHWH

⁵For he will conceal me in his shelter in the day of adversity; he will hide me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. ⁶Then my head will be high above my enemies around me; I will offer sacrifices in his tent with shouts of joy. I will sing and make music to the Lord.

- Troubles will come, but they won't get to me
- Celebration and singing with and for the LORD

But then...the psalm shifts gear and we see some cracks in the confidence

But Also Uncertain

⁷ Lord, hear my voice when I call; be gracious to me and answer me. ⁸ My heart says this about you: “Seek his face.” Lord, I will seek your face.

- *Hey Lord, just checking to see that you’re hearing me*

⁹ Do not hide your face from me; do not turn your servant away in anger. You have been my helper; do not leave me or abandon me, God of my salvation.

- *God are you angry with me? Have you left or abandoned me?*

¹⁰ Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord cares for me. ¹¹ Because of my adversaries, show me your way, Lord, and lead me on a level path.

- *I need to know where to go! What’s the path, Lord? Which direction should I go?*

¹² Do not give me over to the will of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing violence.

- the will of my foes = I’m not in control of the situation
- Lies, violence

** We will finish the psalm in a few minutes, but right now, I simply want to camp out in verse 10. Because in the middle of all the pain, the uncertainty, the confusion, lies, and threats of violence David knows this:*

Big idea: The Lord cares for you

1) The Lord cares for you because that is his nature

⁴ I have asked one thing from the Lord; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the Lord and seeking him in his temple.

- David: *I just want to know The Lord, who he is. Just*
- When God first redeemed his people out of slavery in Egypt, he told Moses these words
- **Exodus 34** ⁶ The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, ⁷ maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers’ iniquity on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.
- Alluded to dozens of times, directly quoted six:
 - Psalm 86:15, Psalm 103:8, Psalm 145:8, Nehemiah 9:17, Joel 2:13, Jonah 4:2
 - Every single one of these direct quotes only quotes the first, “nice” half
 - Does that mean these others are ignoring the part of God they don’t like?
 - First, they were pretty comfortable talking about judgment
 - Second, everyone intuitively knows that bad actions bring consequences
 - Third, note the difference of **who** God is vs. **what** God does
- Yes, the universe has some sharp edges. Yes, God is unapologetic about holding people accountable for their actions. But at the end of the day, the thing that most defines God—his very heart, his very essence is that compassion, grace, faithfulness, truth, love and forgiveness.

- And so we can say with the Apostle John, “God is love.” John writes a lot in 1 John about God holding sinners accountable, and all of that. But at the end of the day, God’s nature is caring.
- The Lord cares for you because his very nature is to care for you

2) The Lord cares for you because we are his creation

¹⁰ Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord cares for me.

- Is there anything more disturbing, more sorrowful than the thought of child abandonment?
- **But**, if it’s unthinkable for an imperfect, impatient parent, how much more for God
- A few weeks ago, in my personal reading, I was in the minor prophet Hosea. In chapter 11, there’s a passage where God speaks in parental terms about his people
 - **Hosea 11** ¹ When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son...[I loved you, but you kept calling out to other gods, to the kings of other nations, it kindled my anger]...⁸ How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I surrender you, Israel? ...I have had a change of heart; my compassion is stirred! ⁹ I will not vent the full fury of my anger; I will not turn back to destroy Ephraim. For I am God and not man, the Holy One among you; I will not come in rage.
 - *Though I would have a right to be angry, my heart as a Father is compassion*
- The Lord cares for the whole of creation: land, sky, sea, birds, beast, fish
- But above all else, he loves humanity. The ones created in his image and likeness
- The Lord cares for you because he created you, he fashioned you, he put you together.
 - Skin, hair, eyes, bone structure: knitted together in your mother’s womb
 - Personality, quirks, likes/dislikes: fearfully and wonderfully made

3) The Lord cares for you because he redeemed you

⁹ Do not hide your face from me; do not turn your servant away in anger. You have been my helper; do not leave me or abandon me, God of my salvation.

- Salvation from what? Sin and suffering
- Sin: “Don’t be angry with me, God”
 - Every single one of us has made choices, committed actions, harbored thoughts and attitudes that our displeasing to God and out of step with how he made us
 - God is loving, truthful, steadfast. And he made us in his image to be like him.
 - And yet how often do we fail to live up to that standard.
 - We have taken pure love and spurned it. We have taken pure truth and distorted it. We have taken steadfastness and unleashed chaos.
 - We rightfully would deserve the righteous anger of the Lord
- Suffering: “I have all these outside problems”
 - Fighting with family, economic hardship, sickness and disease, even depression and anxiety that aren’t sinful but hard to deal with
- Each week: Confession of **NEED** | Both our sin and our sorrows/sufferings
- God is a redeeming God | His heart of care is no mere sentimentality, a distant pity
 - For David: Israel’s redemption from Egypt, promised Messiah

Ultimate redemption in Jesus | God's heart of compassion moved for his creation

- Perfect life of invitation: come to me, I care for you
- Outstretched arms on the cross: come to me, I care for you
- Resurrection on the third day: come to me, I care for you
- Ascension to heaven as high priest: come to me, I care for you
- Promised return one day: come to me, I care for you

Dane Ortlund We project onto Jesus our skewed instincts about how the world works. Human nature dictates that the wealthier a person, the more they tend to look down on the poor. The more beautiful a person, the more they are put off by the ugly. And without realizing what we are doing, we quietly assume that one so high and exalted has corresponding difficulty drawing near to the despicable and unclean. Sure, Jesus comes close to us, we agree—but he holds his nose... This is why we need a Bible. Our natural intuition can only give us a God like us. The God revealed in the Scripture deconstructs our intuitive predilections and startles us with one whose infinitude of perfections is matched by his infinitude of gentleness. Indeed, his perfections *include* his perfect gentleness. It is who he is. It is his very heart. Jesus himself said so.

***Note to those who have yet to follow Jesus: the first two apply to you, but this one doesn't yet. If you have not placed your trust in Jesus, responded to the gospel of the kingdom, and declared your allegiance to him, then you're not redeemed. There will be justice, consequences for your actions. God has every right as creator to hold you to account. The good news is an offer of unbridled compassion and care.*

Confident Humility

¹³ I am certain that I will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the Lord.

- Certainty, but also a recognition of a need for patience

Conclusion | Objections

I'm so weak and fearful
My family hates me
My friends have abandoned me
My heart is so hard

I give in to sin so easy
I've got nothing good to bring
I've suffered so much
I'm not a good or worthy person

INVITE MUSICIANS

SET UP COMMUNION

INVITE PRAYER TEAM