



Sermon Questions

Date: *June 16, 2023* | Scripture: *Psalm 56*

1. Read over Psalm 56 again. How would you describe the emotional flow of the Psalm?
2. How does David talk about his enemies in the passage? How does this develop, where does it peak, and where does it end?
3. Look at the imagery in verse 8. How could this influence your experience of fear, and your counsel to others who are afraid?
4. Verses 12 and 13 speak of a future that is so certain it seems already to have happened. How might certainty over the future and the purpose of our lives affect our response to real, present fear?
5. David wrote this knowing God's character and promises, but before Christ was revealed. How does knowing Christ impact how we read this Psalm?

Inward Grace in Action

Consider this excerpt from *Holiness* by JC Ryle. Christian tradition often speaks of indwelling sin is an enemy; how could Ryle's words provide another perspective on Psalm 56?

“Sanctification is not something that keeps a person from having a great deal of inward spiritual conflict. By conflict, I mean a struggle within the heart between the old nature and the new, between the flesh and the spirit, which are to be found together in every believer (Galatians 5:17). A deep sense of that struggle and a vast amount of mental discomfort from it are no proof that a person is not sanctified. Rather, I believe they are healthy symptoms of our condition, and they prove that we are not dead, but alive. A true Christian is one who has not only peace of conscience, but has war within. He may be known by his warfare as well as by his peace.

I will never hesitate to tell people that inward conflict is no proof that a person is not holy, and that they must not think they are not sanctified because they do not feel entirely free from inward struggle. We will doubtless have such freedom in heaven, but we will never enjoy it in this world. The heart of the best Christian, even at his best, is a field occupied by two rival camps; and if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Exodus 3:1-14
- 1 Samuel 20:10-15
- Isaiah 4:2-6
- Matthew 10:26-33
- Philippians 3:12-16
- Hebrews 10:11-18

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer

Pray for the medical mission team heading to Kenya this week

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at