



Family preparation for congregational worship on May 14, 2017

Our Scripture-Psalm 55(ESV): Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy! 2 Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan, 3 because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they drop trouble upon me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me. 4 My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me. 5 Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me. 6 And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest; 7 yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; Selah 8 I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest." 9 Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues; for I see violence and strife in the city. 10 Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it; 11 ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace. 12 For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me— then I could hide from him. 13 But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. 14 We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng. 15 Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart. 16 But I call to God, and the LORD will save me. 17 Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice. 18 He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me. 19 God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, Selah because they do not change and do not fear God. 20 My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant. 21 His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. 22 Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. 23 But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

Discuss:

1. What danger did David face?
2. What made David's situation so painful?
3. What encouragement does David offer in the Psalm?

Prayer: Praise the Lord for the love that He has for us, and the confidence that we have because of His love. Praise God for His mercy. Ask God to search your heart and cleanse you from any sin the Holy Spirit brings to mind. Pray for greater love for non-Christians. Pray for our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters around the world. Pray for Isaac and Bethany Ledford, as they are involved in working with university students. Ask the Lord who He would have you invite to church this coming Sunday.

Memorize: (May) Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content." 1 Timothy 6:6-8 (ESV)

Music:

As you meditate and prepare your heart for worship this Sunday, sing this song to the Lord;

My faith still holds on to the Christ of Calvary; O blessed Rock of ages cleft for me.

I gladly place my trust in things I cannot see; my faith still holds on to the Christ of Calvary!

"My Faith Still Holds", The Celebration Hymnal, #544, Word Music/Integrity Music © 1997

Psalm 55

W C T L B B C O S O
P D G I V E O P P F
S N Y M L A M P G M
E T F E A R P R T F
L T H E N B L E M R
A P U N M E A S U I
H I D E H C I S M E
E C O M P A N I O N
A W A Y S U T O A D
R C Y C A S T N N R
T L O R D E A T H D

AWAY	BEAR	BECAUSE
CAST	COMPANION	COMPLAINT
DEATH	ENEMY	FEAR
FRIEND	GIVE	HEART
HIDE	LORD	MOAN
OPPRESSION	SELAH	THEN