



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 20, 2024

The Lord be with you. Do you ever read the Bible and you feel like you're reading today's headlines? Well, that's what I'm feeling today, as I read Psalm 11 where I see frightening things going on in the country as it says the good people are being targeted and the foundations are being destroyed.

I read Psalm 11. and it feels like things are going to hell in a hand basket. That's a scene in Psalm 11 is David's friends, are packing up their bags, and they're telling David that hit better head for the hills. Now as we read Psalm 11, it's important to keep in mind that we are reading dialogue. We are reading back and forth conversation going on between David and his friends.

The translators of the psalm have been nice enough to actually insert quotation marks into the text to indicate where we have David speaking and where his friends are speaking out. I'll try to indicate that as I read it as the psalm begins with David speaking...

In the Lord, I take refuge. How can you say to me? Okay, what is it that David's friends are saying to him, they're saying, "And there's marks around it, they were saying, flee David, like a bird to the mountain? Have you ever been so burdened by something, so fearful that you just wanted to head for the hills? Well, that's David's friends, as they are fearful, foot David. They're fearful for themselves by what they see going on in the country and they say to David, flee like a bird to the mountains for look, the wick had been the bow. They have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart. The wicked are targeting they are going after the good people.

So David's friends, they are ringing their hands and then they say, If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? David, what can we do? The foundations of civil order are collapsing around us and even seems incredulous at what he's hearing his friends say, David is not believing his ears. Let me read it again. David starts with this bold confident assertion of his faith in God... In the Lord, I take refuge. How can you say to me, How can you say to me now really... How can you say to me, flee like a bird?

David is countering all the dooms dayers as he says in the Lord, I take refuge. David has learned through the years to see God as a far more secure refuge, that any mountain stronghold and so David makes a decision, were by the act of those, his will, he puts his trust in the Lord and not some mountain stronghold.

That's exactly what we see, David doing in Psalm 27 verse 1. The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid. Don't tell me flee like a bird to the mountains.



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Now, perhaps you're thinking, pressure you're thinking that David there were times when you did feel like a bird of the mountains.

Last year, my wife and I, we were in Israel down around the dead sea in Getty where David fled to the mountains to the strong holds to escape King Saul and his armies. Just listen to David in Psalm 55 verse 6 - Oh, that I had the wings like a dove. I would fly away and be at rest. But now, in Psalm 11 it's a different story. When David's friends are telling him to flee like a bird David says I won't hear it. And we have to ask what's changed, what's changed is that in Psalm 11, David is now king. David is now God's man in Jerusalem. David will not flee responsibility; he will not flee his position to lead and care for God's people. So, David says I'm putting my trust in the Lord.

How can you say to me, flee? David hears what his friends are saying and then in verse 4, he responds, The Lord is in His Holy Temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven, his eyes behold he sees his gaze examines humankind.

David is saying, Hey guys, God's in charge here. God is still on the throne, don't think He's not. God sees, God examines, God knows everything that's going on, God knows all about it. So David is king, He will not flee his post, but he takes on as his refuge. Now, as I read the New Testament, I see that God has made you and me, a royal priesthood. We are royalty it says, we are kings and queens who will one day will the Earth. So, with David, I would say, How can you say to me, flee? In the Lord, I take refuge.

Now there's something that I have learned to do when I am afraid, and I've actually learned this from David in many of his psalms. The the three things I like to do when I'm afraid I find them to be emotionally healthy to do and spiritually healthy, to do.

The first thing I wanna do is I knowledge, what I'm feeling. Lord, I am feeling afraid, we see David doing this in many of his psalms. And then second, after acknowledging honestly, what it is I'm feeling I then I think right thoughts, like David, I think about God's promises to me, I think how God says, he will be with me how he will care for me. And then third, I reset my will to do God's will. I put my trust in God, and by God's great I'm gonna do what God has called me to do. I would be true for those who trust me, I would be pure for there are those who care. I would be strong for there much to suffer. I would be brave for there is much to dare.

And with the words that the Apostle Paul, I lift up this blessing the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

I am Tim Smith. A fellow traveler on the pilgrim way.

Thanks for listening, until next time...