



As for me, I will trust in you

Most of psalms, speak of life's problems. Psalms 50-56 i.e. seven psalms of David teach us how to respond when we are in trouble and when others betray us. Psalms 55 belongs to David. We don't know which circumstances forced David to write psalms 55. Perhaps his Son Absalom revolted against him and tried to get kingship in Israel. 2Samuel 15-18 reveals the background of this psalms. David's faithful friend Ahithophel joined Absalom to plot against him. This psalm tells the painful experiences that people endure in life. It is an extremely emotionally painful experience to have someone with whom you put your trust break that trust and turn against you. In this psalm we will look at how David deals with this betrayal and let's implement some of these applications in our lives.

Firstly, David prays that God would manifest his favor on him, and pleads his own sorrow and fear (v. 1-8). David begins this psalm by pleading to God to hear his words and listen to his prayer. We can see in this psalm that David is not simply complaining but is going to make requests of God and asks God to answer his petition. In verse 2-8 David describes about his emotional and mental distress. One can hardly understand the feelings that David is expressing. Look at the word pictures that David gives to describe his desperate situation anguish, terrors, fear, trembling, and horror. David has taught us repeatedly throughout this psalms, turn to God first. When something happens in life that is hard to deal with and burdens our souls, we need to be sure to speak to God first. David has the right inclination to take his pain to God and make his requests known to him, rather than complain or curse God for what has happened.

Secondly, David prays that God would manifest his displeasure against his enemies, and pleads their great wickedness and treachery (v. 9-15 and again v. 20, 21). David calls upon the Lord to take action. The ways of his enemies are extremely wicked. In verse 9 we read that the city is full of violence, strife, iniquity, and trouble. Oppression and fraud are found in the marketplace. David is calling upon God to disrupt the plans of the wicked so they cannot accomplish their goals. David is expressing the pain of betrayal. The person who caused the pain is a close friend. Perhaps the most devastating part of this cry is the knowledge that it is not just a close friend who has betrayed David, but it is someone with whom they have shared time worshipping the Lord. David says, "We walked in the house of God and worshiped together." David says "The person has evil in the home and in the heart". We are talking about the person who makes a calculated decision to deceive, to sway the hearts of the people, to slander, to cause ruin, and bring pain. The betrayer is another person who is a disciple of God. Losing friends can be painful as it is, but it is worse when a close Christian friend turns against you as an enemy. In fact, he is a companion and with whom David has spent good times together. David realizes that God is listening and God will act on his behalf. He completely relied upon God and prayed to God. Prayer is not only a petition to God but also a way to mold our faith.

David concludes by reminding himself and teaching others to cast their burdens on God during these troublesome times and he will never allow the righteous to be moved. No matter what you face in life, God will in due time comfort you from your enemies and also, encourage others to trust in God. We need to revoke a resolution about our faith and integrity will be stronger for going through the terrible trials. The psalm ends with an affirmation, "But I will trust in you" We need to have this same kind of confidence in the promise of God.

May God bless each one of us,
Yours in his service
Jai Achen

Sunday Bible Readings

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Epistle	Gospel
05 Sunday	Prov. 4:1-19	Acts. 22:l-15	Col. 1:24-29	St. Mat. 11:25-30
12 Sunday	Prov. 31:10-31	Acts. 16:11-15	2 Tim. 1:1-8	St. Luke. 10:25-30
19 Sunday	Gen. 47:1-12	1 Tim. 5:1-10	Eph. 6:1-9	St. Mark. 7:6-16
26 Sunday	1 Sam. 24:1-15	1 Thes. 4:1-12	Eph. 6:10-18	St. Mat. 5:38-48

Worship Services September 2010

Sep 05 Sunday	10:00am	Worship Service in Malayalam
Sep 12 Sunday	10:00am	Holy Communion Service in English
Sep 19 Sunday	10:00am	Holy Communion Service in Malayalam
Sep 26 Sunday	10:00am	Praise, Worship and Holy Communion Service in English

September Birthdays

Parish wishes a Happy Birthday to all those who are celebrating their Birthday this month

2 Ajith Shajan	10 Saramma George	14 Tisha Abraham	24 Marin Varughese
6 David A. Ninan	11 Joshua Jacob	15 Elizabeth Manaloor	25 Abraham Thomas
7 Rachel Roy	11 Molly Jones	17 Aleyamma Jacob	25 Ashley Abraham
8 Joy Varghese	12 Mathew Varghese	17 Susan Alex	25 Cigie George
8 Shaun Sunil	13 Jacob K. Thomas	19 Nisy Philip	25 Jessin C. Varkey
10 Elizabeth George	13 Roy J. Ellikkulathu	21 Rakesh Thomas	26 Ashley Chacko
10 Jeny E. Abraham	13 Varghese A. Chacko	22 Joshua Thomas	26 Elizabeth Joshua
10 Sara A. Cherian	14 P.C. Jacob	22 Kannamala M. Thomas	26 Neena Mathew
		24 Anila Varghese	28 Sony K. Thomas
		24 Jeslin Jose	29 Shawn Cherian
		24 Lenu Jacob	

September Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 Mr. Johnson Yohannan & Mrs. Mariamma Johnson
- 5 Mr. Cherian Thomas & Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian
- 20 Mr. Doncy M. Toms & Mrs. Swapna Doncy

Parish wishes a Happy Wedding Anniversary for families celebrating their Anniversary

September Quiz

Identify the Bible references, 1- 9 from the book of Joshua and 10-12 General.

1. Capture of Jericho.
2. Repulse at Ai because of Achan's sin.
3. Second attack and the burning of Ai.
4. Establishment of Israel's covenant as the Law of the Land.
5. The southern campaign.
6. Treaty with the four Gibeonite cities.
7. Destruction of the Amorite coalition.
8. The northern campaign.
9. Summary of the conquest.
10. One who had a bed of 13 1/2 feet long and 6 feet wide.
11. The women who had to shave their heads before they could marry.
12. Women forbidden to wear men's clothing.

Answers will be in the next edition of the newsletter.

August Answers

1. Joshua: 1:1-5;12
2. Joshua. 1:1-9.
3. Joshua. 1:10-18.
4. Joshua. 2:1-24
5. Joshua. 3:1-5;1
6. Joshua. 5: 1-12.
7. Joshua. 5:13;12:24.
8. Joshua. 5:13; 6:5
9. Joshua. 6:6-8; 29.
10. Genesis. 38:28-29.
11. Exodus. 17:11.
12. Numbers. 22:28-30.

Please E-Mail your answers before September 20, 2010 to: danielthampi@bellsouth.net or mail to: 4006 Jackson Shoals Ct., Lawrenceville, GA 30044 Tel: 770-931-3900

Prayer Meetings

- Alpharetta-Marietta: Sep 25, Sat 7:00pm at the residence of Mr. Roy Ellikkulathu & Mrs. Rachel Roy**
Fasting Prayer: Sep 25, Sat 10:30am at Church
Sevika Sanghom: Sep 18, Sat 10:30am at the residence of Mrs. Sosa Jacob
Youth Group: Sep 18, Sat 3:00pm at the residence of Zubin and Zerine Kurian

Special Programs

- Parish Convention: September 17-19, Speaker: Evangelist Joy Pullad**
Choir Festival: September 4, Florida
Sevika Sanghom joint meeting with Hermon Mar Thoma Church: September 11, 10:30am
Special Collection: September 19, Sunday

Teaching children to walk in God's way—Part 1

- Elizabeth Anil John

Importance of Prayer in a Child's Life

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from them." - Proverbs 22 vs 6

Teaching a child to walk in God's way is the responsibility of the parents. Children are so important to God and to the church that as parents we alone can impart all the spiritual training to them. We should tell them the importance of having a personal relationship with God. Only when a child has a personal relationship with God they will be able to overcome any problem in their life.

Personal relationship with God is only possible through Prayer. We know the importance of prayer as we read the Bible. Prayer alone opens all closed door, gives a way through all impossible situation of life and gives hope when all our human power fails. Prayer is a way of bringing God to intervene in all our needs.

Prayer should consist of putting all our needs before God, it must be Praise and Thanksgiving. Prayer should not become a duty but it must be a way to grow in Christ. Prayer should teach the children to open their hearts to God, depend on God for all their needs and to come with a repentant heart when they have done wrong in their life.

Teaching the child to pray in the morning allows them to ask God to be with them, guide them through out the day in their work and play and keep them away from Sin . This is a good way to start a day. Children should learn to seek God's guidance through prayer in taking not only important decision of life like to choose a career or a job but also even the smallest decisions about their studies and day to day activities. When they learn to talk to God for their small decisions they will know to approach God when they are facing a really hard time and be sure there is a God who will answer all their prayers.

The bible says in Jeremiah 33 vs 3 " Call to me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know". Children should know that there is a God whom they can approach when ever they are in need and he is having an answer for all their problems.

Prayer is seeking God's direction, his will and our dependence on him. Children should learn to give importance to Prayer and make it a part of life. The wise Solomon says we should teach them ,train them when they are young and they will learn to continually depend on God as they grow and they will not leave God's way.

(Next: Importance of Family Prayer in a child's life)

Human beings are very eager to celebrate holidays. This has been true in all nations throughout the ages. Most of the celebrations have disappeared, but some remain and celebrated in changed forms

“Onam”, the celebration of the harvest festival in Kerala falls in the end of August or beginning of September every year. This celebration leads us to our nostalgic feelings and memories about the legendary king “Mahabali” who ruled us long ago. Commemorating the good old days we have the celebration every year. Onam is the festival of flowers. People decorate their court yard with flowers and prepare sumptuous meals so as to remember the good old days of sufficiency. They used to exchange gifts and wear new clothes on that auspicious day by participating in this festival we become part and parcel of the cultural and artistic life of our community.

Another festival in India in the month of September is the “Rakshabandhan”. The main part of this festival involves a sister giving her brother a bracelet of woven threads called ‘Rakhi’. The tradition dates back to 500 years when sisters tied rakhies on their brother’s wrists to protect them on the battle field. In turn the brother vowed to protect sisters honor from other invaders. “Raksha” means protection and “bandhan” means bond.

September is also the Ramadan month, the holy month of Muslims. During this month they avoid all food and drinks between sunrise and sunset. They celebrate the end of this fasting with the festival of Eidul- Fitr. It is Arabic word which means festival of happiness and a time of great joy. This joyous celebration lasts for three days when Muslims cook celebratory meals, give food for the poor, exchange gifts cards etc:

Jewish celebrate Rosh Hashanah on the first day and Yom Kippur On the tenth day of Lunar month of Tishri (September- October) which is the Day of Atonement, the most solemn holiday of the Jewish Year, the entire ten days of rigorous fasting and repentance and preparation for atonement. They are the days of Awe and Yom Kippur is their culmination. Though it is a solemn holiday in the extreme, it brings together prayer, ritual, historical reminiscence, teaching, music, poetry and legend in a fusion not equaled by any other Jewish holiday. The final service of Yom Kippur before sundown is Ne’ilah which means “closing” or “locking”. The name calls to mind both closing of the gates of Ancient Temple at twilight and the closing of the Gates of Heaven. In legend the fate of each individual is sealed for the year to come. The spirit of the prayers offered at this twilight hour is that of a final appeal, a last hour outpouring of potential supplications. At the close of the service the ram’s horn is blown signaling the start of evening prayers and the end of Yom Kippur.

In America we celebrate Labor Day on the first Monday of September, believing in the importance and necessity of hard work to achieve success. Labor is one of the great elements of society- the great substantial interest on which we all stand.

Celebrations bring together people from all walks of life. It is a time of sharing. A sharing community is always aware of the needs of their fellow being, the less privileged people. By sharing we can bring equality and harmony among the people.

- Annie Varughese

KOINONIA

Atlanta Mar Thoma Church
775 Rays Road
Stone Mountain 30083

Phone: 404-499-0663
E-mail: vicar@atlantamarthomachurch.com

We are on the Web

AtlantaMarThomaChurch.com

Editor: Roy Ellikkulathu
Phone: (770) 801-8510

Deadline for the October 2010 Newsletter

Please submit any articles no later than Tuesday, September 21, 2010 to
editor@atlantamarthomachurch.com

Vicar: Rev. Jai Varghese
1548 Fair Oaks Lane, Snellville GA 30078
Phone: (770) 979-1160

Secretary: Abraham Mathew
3335 Well Brook Dr, Loganville, GA 30052
Phone: (770) 554-2077

Trustee: Sabu Abraham
1402 Bromley Drive, Snellville, GA 30078
Phone: (770) 972-9761