



The May 18, 2020 edition of TruNorth Daily Devotional with Dr Jim Brown:

“Learning Life from the Psalms of David.”

Psalm 31

#3

Psalm 31:9-18

“Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am in distress. Tears blur my eyes. My body and soul are withering away. I am dying from grief; my years are shortened by sadness. Sin has drained my strength; I am wasting away from within. I am scorned by all my enemies and despised by my neighbors – even my friends are afraid to come near me. When they see me on the street, they run the other way. I am ignored as if I were dead, as if I were a broken pot. I have heard the many rumors about me, and I am surrounded by terror. My enemies conspire against me, plotting to take my life.

“But I am trusting you, O LORD, saying, ‘You are my God!’ My future is in your hands. Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly. Let your favor shine on your servant. In your unfailing love, rescue me. Don’t let me be disgraced, O LORD, for I call out to you for help. Let the wicked be

disgraced; let them lie silent in the grave (Sheol). Silence their lying lips – those proud and arrogant lips that accuse the godly.”

As we read today’s section of David’s Psalm 31, we see David in distress and agony. He is tearful, full of grief and scored by friends and enemies alike. As I was pondering these verses, I couldn’t help thinking how contemporary it all sounds. It’s as though David is riding “life’s roller coaster” – probably like you and me.

David’s honest acknowledgment of how he feels is open and raw. He also mentions SIN which has drained his strength, is causing him to “waste away from within,” and even causing his friends and enemies to disregard him.

Can YOU identify with how David must have felt? The world is crushing in on him to the point of even feeling that his life was in danger.

“O Lord.”

I love those two words and these key words from David: ***“I am trusting you, O Lord. You are my God! My future is in your hands!”*** He is looking – as you and I need to look – to Almighty God for help, rescue, restoration, and to guide him into the future.

Where DO you look when bad times hit? When you are afraid of the future? Maybe things aren’t as bad for you as they appeared to be for David here, but you and I have bad times too, right? Where do you look?

David’s writings are instructive.

After he proclaims his trust in God, he boldly asks for help... rescue from his enemies, God’s favor to shine on him, and then he asks God to “take care” of his enemies and even has some suggestions on how He could do that!

The major take-away for me is that David – a man after God’s heart, though imperfect – always came back to His Lord and His God with repentance, praise and trust.

Prayer, Lord, I too am imperfect, even though I’m one of your children. Help me to learn from David and to return to you during all the phases of my life. You are my Lord, my God, my Comforter and my Guide. I trust in YOU. Amen.