

## **THE CRY TO GOD**

### **Psalm 119:145-152**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. In the parable of the Pharisee and Publican praying (Lk. 18:9-14), the publican's prayer was heard – the Pharisee accomplished nothing except to provide an example of how not to pray.
- B. The self-centered man cannot truly pray, because he feels he has no need of God.
- C. The humble man says, *"I am weak, but Thou art strong. Hold me with Thy powerful hand. Bread of Heaven, feed me till I lack no more."*
- D. In Solomon's prayer for wisdom (1 Kgs. 3:6-9), his focus was on God and His mercy and His people.

#### **I. THE SENSE OF NEED.**

- A. At some time or other we have all felt the need of prayer – especially in times of crisis.
  - 1. Our most apparent needs – financial, social, etc. – are selfish and we supply them by our own means.
  - 2. When a crisis comes, we realize we can't handle everything and we cry out to God.
    - a. If this sense of need is only temporary, no satisfactory prayer life will result.
    - b. If it causes an abiding spirit of humility, it becomes a channel of blessings from God.
- B. The Psalmist's Need.
  - 1. Close encounters with Saul?
  - 2. On the run from his son, Absalom?
  - 3. Perhaps the sin with Bathsheba?
  - 4. Maybe it was the exiles longing to be "home".
- C. His Cry for God.
  - 1. Verse 145, *"I cried with all my heart; ..."*
    - a. An earnest and fervent cry for help.
    - b. Moses told the people, *"...you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul"* (Deut. 4:29).
  - 2. Verse 147-148, *"I rise before dawn...my eyes anticipate the night watches."*
    - a. Suggesting a regular time of prayer.
    - b. Examples:
      - i. Daniel – 3 times daily.
      - ii. Jesus – through the night.
      - iii. Without ceasing, 1 Thess. 5:17.
  - 3. Verse 149, *"Hear my voice ... revive me, ..."*
    - a. Crying to be heard.
    - b. Crying for God's mercy and goodness.
    - c. Crying for life!

#### **II. OUR HUMAN NEEDS.**

- A. In weariness we turn to God for rest, Psalm 37:7.
- B. In weakness we turn to God for health, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.
- C. In loneliness we turn to God for companionship, Psalm 142:4.

1. The apostle Paul, 2 Timothy 4:16-17.
- D. In temptation we turn to God for deliverance, 1 Corinthians 10:13.
- E. In sorrow we turn to God for comfort, Psalm 46:1.
  1. Psalm 147:3, *"He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds."*
- F. In sin we turn to God for salvation, 1 John 1:9.
- G. In death we turn to God for help, John 14:1-3.

### III. OUR NEED FOR GOD.

- A. Hunger and Thirst for God, Mt. 5:6.
  1. The chief reason that many of our lives are prayerless lies in the fact that there is no real desire in the soul for God.
  2. Man is the storm center of a battle between the spiritual and the physical.
  3. The physical can crowd out the spiritual, Matthew 13:22.
- B. When God Made Man.
  1. Man was made with choice.
  2. When Adam and Eve fell to Satan's temptations, they delivered human flesh to the bondage of death.
  3. Ever since then, man has been forced to wrestle against the flesh, Eph. 6:10-13.
  4. Every person also has a spiritual nature, no matter how much it may be marred or dwarfed – it is capable of making contact with God.
    - a. It begins with the cry, *"O wretched man that I am ..."* (Rom. 7:24).
    - b. But the secret lies in opening the door of the soul to God.
- C. A Relationship with God.
  1. Each verse in this reading speaks of "knowing God".
    - a. Vs. 145 – *"I will observe Your statutes."*
    - b. Vs. 146, *"I shall keep Your testimonies."*
    - c. Vs. 147, *"I wait for Your words."*
    - d. Vs. 148, *"...so I may meditate on Your word."*
    - e. Vs. 149, *"...according to Your lovingkindness...Your ordinances."*
    - f. Vs. 150, those wicked *"are far from Your law."*
    - g. Vs. 151, *"All Your commandments are truth."*
    - h. Vs. 152, *"Of old I have known from Your testimonies, that You have founded them forever."*
  2. God is central in prayer.
  3. The more He means to us, the more prayer will mean to us.
  4. We desire God for Himself.

### CLOSING

- A. What is your relationship with the Lord, today?
- B. It begins with humbling ourselves before Him, and recognizing as Solomon did, *"I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in."*