

Where Shall I Flee?
January 17, 2021
Psalm 139:1-10

How many times have we thought on the gist of this Psalm. We know of the power of God and how He knows all things. We even give some of the powers of God to Santa who as kids we knew, that he knew, if we had been naughty or nice. We know God has much more power than Santa. We know from this Psalm and all we have been taught, that the words of this Psalm are imbedded in us. These words can bring so much comfort to us, always under the Lord's protection, even into outer space.

This Psalm can bring us so much comfort when things are out of sorts. It can bring comfort when we are out of our element or find ourselves alone, maybe even scared. The Lord watches over us at all times. He wants us to know that He is always with us, even when we are going through things we wish he would deliver us from. Oh, there are those passing thoughts that maybe He has forgotten us at those times but as I told the former District President of the Rocky Mountain District if I was worried about Bryce in the Iraq war, I responded that he was in the hands of the Lord. I could do nothing but trust in the Lord and His power, His protection.

We have been going through some trying times these past couple weeks. We wonder what the Lord has in store for us with all that has gone on. Many probably thought it was good to get past 2020 and on to a new year. We had our dreams of a new year, better than the last but in thinking that way, were we turning our backs on what God had planned for us and for this nation and the world?

We are still sorting out what has gone on these past couple weeks and are wondering about the rest of the 50 weeks left and beyond. We know the Lord has His plan for all this and we know we wouldn't want to try to stand in the way of His plans. Yet, not standing in the way, we think we sure would want to be on His side in all this and do what He has given us to do in a way that would be pleasing to Him.

We want to do what God wants us to do. We have been bought with a price, a high price, the suffering and death of Jesus our Savior. We owe Jesus our very lives, lives in this world and yes, more importantly, our eternal lives.

We owe Him so much. We don't know what awaits us but we should always be looking through the glasses of God. We attend services, we read His Word, we study personally and we should hash it out with those in a setting where we each can look into

the Word to see what it is saying, listening to others and how the Lord is bringing His truth to light.

We can get so used to what we have to do, day by day, that some of the things that we know we should be doing or not doing get set aside for awhile, thinking we are too busy, too tired, too whatever. We know we are Christians and know that when the Lord comes to get us, we will know where we are going. He promised us that all who believe in Him, though he were dead will find themselves with Him, alive, alive forever with Him.

But back to the Psalm and the Lord who knows all, is all powerful and who can be anywhere He wants, all at the same time. The verse that really struck me was verse 7. *Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?* What was on David's mind? Go from the Spirit of God, fleeing from His presence? He had fled from so many people who were after his life, why would the thought of fleeing from God even enter his mind, let alone a Psalm?

Who flees? There has to be something to flee from. David knew about fleeing but why the thought of fleeing from God? He knew the feeling of someone being after him and for Him, to think that way of the Lord, might it be more personal if he thought of the Lord that way, as if there were any way possible to do that?

David, the boy who had slain Goliath with his sling, had been blessed by the Lord. Yet, his life was not all roses. He was a servant to the King and yet the King was jealous and when he thought David was encroaching on his Kingship, David had to go. He tried to kill David, time after time. David had to pick up a flee Saul, time after time.

Even after David became king, he had to flee. His son wanted to take over David's kingship and David was warned and had to flee again. God would eventually have his son get hung up in a tree and then killed but David had to flee in the mean time.

He knew what is was to flee and yet in thinking of God and his relationship, he brings the word "flee" to his mind. It is a different flee for him though. Flee to him and to us usually revolves around fear of what is going to happen to us. Yes, and what we normally think will happen to us, is negative and so we flee. But what if what is going through our mind is positive? Because if it is something good, not fearful, then there is no reason to flee. If it is positive then we might run toward the source of that positiveness.

Right before this verse of running, fleeing, David acknowledges that knowing God is always watching over him, he says it so wonderful for him that He he can't even put into words how wonderful it is, it is as if it is out of reach, too high, no way that he can get ahold of the whole idea of it.

David uses the word, flee. We know of his fleeing but what about others? We think of Adam and Eve. When they realized what they had done, what did they do? They fled and hid out. God though came looking. They had the fear of the Lord and what He had every right to do. They knew they had broken that one law. With the breaking of that law was promised death even though death had never happened before. Adam had the breath of God breathed into him. He knew that breath, that life given. He then saw the result of being alone, no one to be his mate as other of God's creation. He was alone, as if anyone else in his life had died and yet what did the Lord do? He took a rib from him and created a living, breathing being to match up to him, bone of his bones, flesh of his flesh out of a man, he, Adam.

So much going for him and yet with that breaking of the one law, it could have all turned out so differently. Fear came and sent them away from a loving God, the very God who had lovingly created them.

We don't know that kind of fear normally. Fear that your life is in danger. Knowing we are not alone though, helps us, especially when the Guy who is with us is all powerful, all knowing and can be anywhere He wants, when He wants to set things right for us. It is not only ourselves who can't flee from His presence but not one, no thing can flee from His presence either.

We also think of the great fleer in the Bible, Jonah. Was it fear of the Lord in his case. Not really. It was his not wanting to do what God wanted him to do. He was told by God to go to the east and what does he do, goes to the west, gets on a boat and then eventually finds himself in the belly of a great fish. Getting thrown overboard and getting swallowed up made his fleeing come to a halt. He was trapped and had time to think, what is worse, being in the dark belly of a fish or out in the light bringing the Word of the Lord to people he didn't think deserved it.

He was spit out on land and then went as he was told, even if reluctantly. No longer fleeing but not too excited about what he was called to do. He was a racist. He didn't think they were people worth God's time but God got his attention and he went.

Jonah's fleeing is all known by us but what does the Lord leave us with as the book of Jonah closes? Jonah is angry, angry enough to die and yet the Lord leaves him with something to think about. Is a plant more important than 120,000 people let alone their livestock?

Jonah was only thinking of himself. As he went through the city, do you think he was still going about it, all the while feeling sorry for himself. Yes, he probably was. Even though He knew the Lord, he had placed himself over and above others, people like him, created by God.

He found out first hand he couldn't flee from the presence of the Lord as did the people to whom he came. They took to heart the message and didn't flee but in fear and respect made themselves and their livestock as nothing, then called out to God for forgiveness. They came to realize that all that they had and were, was from the Lord of Jonah. Not Jonah, the unwilling servant but his Lord.

If the Lord could use Jonah, one who fled from his calling and when he did it, did it reluctantly, can He use us? We are here to be used by Him. If there is no use for us even reluctantly to do His will, even in trying to flee what He wants us to do, can we do anything less than give in?

You can't go anywhere, flee anywhere where He isn't. He is with you, wanting to take your hand and lead you along life's way as the hymn goes.

The Lord not only wants to lead you, but to hold you, protect you, improve you in His work for you to do, prepared for you to do before time began.

Have we been fleeing from what God has for us? Fleeing may not be a distance thing but a responsibility thing. David seems to focus more on the distance thing but He understands that the Lord is also there when our thoughts and ways may be far from what He has designed for us.

Why even flee. It isn't going to keep God out of our lives. He loves us too much for that. Jesus loved the world so that He gave His life. He wants the best for us even if we may be uncomfortable. How do you deal with the uncomfortable? You do things to change the situation.

It may be something new but as He works in our lives, leading us on His mission to bring His good news to others, His right hand, the hand of power shall hold each of us.