

PSALM 5

1. Read Psalm 5 silently, then aloud. Ask God to open your heart to the message He has for you in this passage.

The Cry of the Dependent Heart - Read verses 1-3. Below is the text from the New American Standard version. Included in parenthesis is wording from other versions that you might find helpful.

2. The presence of enemies is felt as the psalm opens. Tell what King David's words teach about close communion with God.
 - a. Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my groaning (sighing, meditation, inmost thoughts, whispering.)

 - b. Heed (listen to) the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to Thee do I pray.

 - c. In the morning (morning by morning) Thou wilt hear my voice (O LORD, you hear my voice, You listen for my voice).

 - d. In the morning (morning by morning) I will order my prayer to Thee (lay my requests before you, hold myself in readiness for you, set out my morning sacrifice).

 - e. And eagerly watch (wait in expectation, look up).
3. Which truth(s) did you see in these verses that you particularly want to remember and apply in your own life this week?

The Confidence of the Dependent Heart - Read verses 4-7, which begins, *For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with Thee.* (NAS) Note in verses 5-6, *hate* (or *abhor*) isn't resentful desire for retaliation. It is God's carefully-considered anger, rooted in a holy commitment to justice, His perfect, righteous application of just disapproval and penalty against wrong-doing. (From Word in Life Study Bible.)

4. David is facing wrongful attacks by some very dangerous foes. Their aim is to cause his downfall and gain Israel for themselves. How do verses 5 and 6 describe them?

5. A typical ruler in this situation would follow suit, countering his enemies' actions with his own scheming and power plays. But in this prayer David is choosing to lay it out before His God. Why? (From verses 4-6, what is David's firm belief and understanding?)

6. Before going on to David's next words, look back carefully at the description given in verses 5-6. Can David, or any of us, say "You'd never find me in that group!"? Explain. (For extra insight into David, note II Samuel 11:1-5, 14-17; 12:7-10, 13.)

7. What does David understand and acknowledge in Psalm 5:7a? (See Psalm 130:3-4, Titus 3:3-5.)

8. Instead of judgment what awesome privilege is made available to David? (verse 7a. You may also enjoy Ephesians 2:12-13.)

9. a. If we have a clear understanding of these things, how might that affect our attitudes toward others?

b. And what attitudes toward God grow in us as we see who He is and what He has made possible? (verse 7b)

The Conspiracy Against the Dependent Heart - Read verses 8-10.

10. David's foes are probably hostile regimes in neighboring kingdoms and/or ungodly, jealous courtiers in his own land. Who might we tend to think of as our enemies?
11. Scripture reveals the real enemy, in David's time and ours—he is opposed to all mankind and especially to those who are reaching out to God. What do you learn in Ephesians 6:11-12?
12. a. What are the tactics and the goal (or effect) of David's enemies from verse 9?

b. These facts about David's foes are no coincidence. What is true about the enemy of our souls? (John 8:44, Matthew 4:1)
13. Satan's lies and attacks are aimed at pressing us to distrust God, cast His words aside, go our own way and reap a sure harvest of pain and loss. Perhaps you feel under attack today. What specific lies do you think he wants you to believe and act upon?
14. In response to all of this, David shows us where to turn our focus and attention—and it's not on the enemy or our own ideas. Write out what David confidently asks of God in verse 8. Underline the truths that stand out to you in these words. (Why these?)
15. God is and does for us just the opposite of what we saw the enemy being and doing in verse 9! Now read verse 10.
 - a. Who can we count on to ultimately overthrow the enemy and his lies? (verses 5-6)
 - b. We can pray for this mighty work of God for ourselves and others! Personal: Bring yourself and those on your heart to Him.

The Triumphant Culmination for the Dependent Heart - Read verses 11 and 12. Note: The Lord's "name" (verse 11) means all that He is and shows Himself to be.

16. The enemy wants his attacks to result in great evil, but they certainly can have a far different outcome! In verse 11, note that the response of God's child can be to "take refuge in You" and "love Your name." What do these mean—what do you think it would look like to grow in these and to do them in your everyday life?

17. Instead of such things as fear, doubt, hopelessness, dread, anger, etc., what is the inner experience or emotional response of these who are holding fast to their Lord "under fire" in this way? (verse 11)

18. From verses 11-12, list the wonderful things you see the Lord doing for those who run to Him for shelter—comment as you wish.

19. Remember now, who are the righteous, in verse 12? (Recall verse 7.)

20. Since all of these things are true, take courage! God is doing something eternally good in your life. Write out your own prayer of praise to Him-- sing in your refuge!

My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand - all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand. Edward Mote

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