

Week Thirteen – August 24
THE HEART OF DELIVERANCE
PSALM 118

Overview: When we are faced with difficulties, most of us look to our suffering before turning to God. David may well have done that in other Psalms, but in Psalm 118, David looks first to the mercy and love of God. An enduring deep abiding love that endures forever. Verses 1-4 are a preamble, in which David tells us this is the day of God’s mercy and love. This is a call to celebration. And with that as the backdrop, David then describes what he had been facing. He had been in a war. His nation had been overrun and was being invaded. His situation had seemed hopeless, but somehow God had delivered him and given him victory. The invaders were like swarming bees, but God kept them out (v. 12). David was pushed to the brink, and he was there at the edge of falling, but the Lord helped him out (v. 13) This is the day of God’s help as represented in verses 5-18.

That leads to the final part of Psalm 118. This is the day of God’s Son, of Jesus Christ. The Psalmist has proclaimed a day of national worship and thanksgiving, which included a festive procession through downtown Jerusalem, through the gates of the temple, and right into the House of the Lord. As we study this, we realize it’s Messianic in nature, predicting the events of Palm Sunday. Jesus was the stone the builder’s rejected. As He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the crowds echoed Psalm 118 by shouting, “God Save Us!” or “Hosana!” The rejected stone became the cornerstone, and Jesus entered Jerusalem to become the Savior of the world. This is the day of God’s Son as shown in verses 19-29.

What is the central focus of this Psalm? What is David telling us?

The common truth is that we are all broken and hurting. Hurting people usually end up hurting others, and we have all experienced the bitter pill of being hurt by others. But there is one who will never harm us – our Lord. His love endures forever. In verse 8, we find a life truth that must be learned, that “It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man. God will never leave us, or forsake us. (Josh 1:5), and “there is a

friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Prov. 18:24) The secret of life is found in where you place your confidence. The psalmist is reminding us that at a foundational level, people can’t help us. Our hope for salvation is in Christ! Our hope for our families is in Christ! And Our hope for our nation is in Christ!

Progression or Steps that lead to a deeper relationship with God

David reminds us that deliverance does not begin with what we want or desire. That even in our most difficult situations, we cannot prevail on our own. We need a Savior, and in Psalm 118, we are reminded of the deep abiding love of God, that He would send His Son, Jesus, to willingly die on the cross for us, so that we might be set free. Jesus is the chief cornerstone that the builder’s rejected. He is the light, and He came to save the world. To deliver us from this wretched world and provide everlasting life that we might dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

How does this impact your walk with God?

In Psalm 118, we see a prophecy of the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus and the suffering and glory that will follow. In verse 19, David asked for permission to enter through the gates of heaven. In verse 21, we see him thanking God for granting him admission. He thanked God for the “gate of the Lord,” through which the righteous enter. We know this gate is Jesus! In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

He is the only gate, but He is not only the gate. Jesus is also the cornerstone, which the builders rejected. In Acts 4:10, Peter accused the priests and religious scribes of being the ones who rejected Jesus. The One who was rejected became the chief cornerstone (v. 11). The humiliated was exalted, as we see in Philippians 2. Ultimately, we also see that God will reject those who reject Jesus.

How could you use Psalm 118 to witness to the lost? Do you put your trust in the Lord or do you put your confidence in man? Are there times you recall where you did in fact put your confidence in man and everything

worked out? Was it a situation where God was using another to help rescue you? Explain?