

Central Idea: We can praise God no matter the circumstances.

I. David's Predicament (1-2)

- Feels forgotten and ignored by God
 - This distressing and depressing situation has dragged on
- Question #1: The Length of the Struggle
 - David feels like this will last forever
 - Common temptation to think struggles will never end
- Question #2: Cause of Feelings: Apparent Lack of Blessing
 - “Hide Your face” = Withhold favor and blessing
 - Face shine upon you = bless you (Num. 6:24-26)
 - David feels like God doesn't care about him
- Question #3: Result of These Feelings
 - David can only listen to his own counsel
 - Feels like he must figure things out on his own
 - Results in a heart constantly filled with sorrow
- Question #4: Struggle is Made Worse by His Enemies
 - David's enemies get what David feels he should have
 - Calls out to God asking how long he'll be abandoned

II. David's Prayer (3-4)

- Request #1: “Consider Me”
 - Asks God to turn back toward him and show favor
- Request #2: “Answer Me”
 - Asks God to answer his prayer and send encouragement
 - Addresses God personally; no longer views him as distant

- Request #3: “Enlighten My Eyes”
 - Asks God for spiritual wisdom and physical & emotional strength and refreshment
 - Concerned not only for himself, but for the glory of God
 - If he died, his enemies would rejoice & dishonor God
 - Turns his enemies over to God, for Him to deal with

III. David's Praise (5-6)

- Shown in contrast to the rejoicing of his enemies
- In spite of the lack of response, David still trusts God
- Reliance on God leads to rejoicing in Him and His salvation
- “Bountifully” - relates to the goodness of God
 - Reason David will sing praises to the Lord
- David's perspective is the only thing that changed
 - Has new outlook because of where his focus is

Application:

- When you go through trials, focus on God's goodness
 - We find encouragement in God's past faithfulness
 - 1 Samuel 17:37
- When you pray, thank God for specific ways you've experienced His goodness

Discussion Questions:

- Where do you see Jesus in this Psalm?
- How do David's words encourage you when these same feelings arise?
- How can you help encourage others who feel this way?
- Why is it important to be honest with God about our feelings?
- In what ways have you seen God deal bountifully with you?