

# Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for May 10, 2020

## Sermon Notes

### **A Song of Praise from the Depths of the Cave to the Ends of the Earth Psalm 57**

We all long to be back together as a church family. And soon, God willing, we will be able to do that in one way or another. But being back at this place is not essential to our worship. The basis of our praise is not the place where we find ourselves. Neither is our praise based on our circumstances. Long before there was a temple in Jerusalem, David was writing, singing, and leading God's people in heart felt worship.

The last time we were together in Psalm 56, we saw David headed in Gath, the city of Goliath. So bad were things in his home country, so isolated was he from all support, that the one who God had chosen to be king of Israel had to find shelter in the hometown of Goliath, the city of the enemy of his people. In Psalm 57 David is still in danger, and still on the run for his life as he flees from Saul. **I** Samuel 22 and 24 tell us that this was in the wilderness of Engedi and that David and his few hundred men were being pursued by Saul and 3,000 chosen men. So it is five-to-one against David and he is trapped in a cave. Even in this dark and desperate situation, David praises the Lord.

Is Psalm 56 David preached to himself and prayed, *"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God I trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?"* (Ps 56: 3,4,11) In Psalm 57 David prays to God and proclaims to us, *"even when I am deep in the cave and in the midst of trouble, "in You my soul takes refuge"; and regardless of my circumstances, my heart sings, "be exalted, O God above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!"*

Today we see three essential elements in this song of praise that reaches from the depths of the cave to the ends of the earth. These elements are just as essential for us and they were for David. Those elements are humility, confidence, and purpose:

#### **In Humility Cry Out for God's Mercy**

*Psalm 57:1 [1] Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.*

Being able to praise the Lord from the depths of the cave – being able to genuinely praise him from anywhere – begins with humility. *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.* (Ja 4:6) David prays with the humility that recognizes he needs undeserved mercy and grace. This humility also enables him to see that God is his only hope of help and refuge, and even the darkest of situation is only temporary – this storm will eventually pass by.

#### **In Confidence Trust God's Salvation**

*I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. Selah God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness! My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts— the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. Selah Ps 57: 2-6*

Now David turns to us and teaches us: Our hope is not in favorable circumstances, good luck, positive thinking. Our hope is in God Most High, who always and forever accomplishes his purposes and completes what He starts. David points us to God, and asks us to contemplate God's character, his purposes and the assurance of his work on behalf of his people.

#### **With Purpose Declare God's Glory**

*My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody! Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! Ps 57:7-11*

I can worship the Lord and sing his praises from the depths of a cave when my heart is steadfast - fixed, settled and firm. Then there is a clear direction and settled purpose in all that I do - and that is to glorify God with all that I have and in all that I do, to the end that all the earth will know of God's steadfast love and faithfulness – that God's glory be over all the earth!

# Weekly Discipleship Guide

## Sunday

*In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:*

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

**Know**

## Monday

*Spend some time today doing the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

**Know > Be**

## Tuesday

*In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

**Be**

## Wednesday

*Think about this week's questions for group discussion:*

Worship has been different over the past 9 weeks and will continue to be different in ways we don't yet know. How does this season and situation, along with the message of Psalm 57, help us to understand worship in general, as well as our personal response to God day by day?

**Be > Do**

## Thursday

*In your journal, spend some time considering the following:*

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

**Do**

\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor

**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor

**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor

**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students  
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**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry  
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### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 1:00pm

*Other times by appointment.*

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