



OHBC MEMORY VERSE - WEEK #25

THIS WEEK'S VERSE: LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Why Lamentations 3:22-23?

Because it is a reminder to us of the great mercy and compassion our Lord has for us, and the fact that He allows us to get a brand new start every day!

With the way some days go, can you imagine our lives just being one continuous day? God knew we would need to regroup ourselves, so He designed our bodies to require sleep, and so planned the earth's rotation around the sun so that days end, and days begin. Jeremiah reminds us that each day when we awake, our faithful Lord's mercies and compassions are there to meet us.

GRACE is God giving to us what we don't deserve, and MERCY is God not giving to us what we do deserve. Jeremiah is right! We deserve to be consumed by God's righteous wrath and judgment. But, praise the Lord, our God is not only holy, He is love, and out of His love flows His incredible mercies and unfailing compassions! Just as certain as the sun will rise on the earth tomorrow morning, God's faithful mercy will rise on us. Bask in it!

DAY 121

TODAY'S READING: PSALM 12-20

OVERVIEW:

The preservation of God's Word; longing for deliverance; the foolishness of fools; the description of a godly man; the second coming of Christ; the power of God's Word.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

In Psalm 12 and verse one, the context for this psalm is set – godly men and faithful men are in short supply. It certainly is descriptive of our time as well. However, the Lord will arise and deal justly. The certainty of this truth is based on the certainty of God's Word. We can rest and be at peace even in this evil world, because we can trust God's Word. He has preserved it for us. It is true and we know the Lord will keep His Word. In fact, His promise is that He will preserve and keep His Word pure forever.

Notice how honest David gets with God in Psalm 13. In fact, the first two verses are questioning God! Do you ever feel like that? The problem is we usually take it to someone else instead of getting honest and questioning God. It sounds almost blasphemous to say you can question God, but that's what David did right here. He poured out his heart not to others, but to God. The result of his honesty with the Lord is seen in how the psalm ends – David remembers God's mercy, he remembers God's salvation, and he remembers how "bountifully" God has dealt with him. When we get honest with God, He will bring to our remembrance His mercy, His salvation and His goodness. Our circumstances may not change, (David's didn't), but our attitude and our outlook will. This should be a psalm of great comfort to us.

The 14th Psalm is the description of lost man, and a description of all of us before our salvation. God uses Psalm 15 to give us a description of a godly man – someone who dwells where God is. God uses five sentences (watch the punctuation) to outline this person:

1. Inward righteousness that works its way out – (vs. 2). This is the opposite of the Pharisees who had an outward righteousness, but their hearts were not affected.
2. Loves others as himself – (vs. 3). Interpersonal problems are caused because someone does not love his neighbor as himself.
3. Esteems the righteous, not the evil – (vs. 4a). Who are the people you respect and esteem? Do they have a walk with God or not?
4. Means what he says – (vs. 4b). Can others believe what I'm saying, and do I keep my word even when it cost me something, or do I look for a way out?
5. Not driven by making gain – (vs. 5). Is making money, getting ahead in life, or "doing well" the priority and pursuit of my life, or is loving God?

A prophecy of the death and resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:31) is found in Psalm 16:10.

In Psalm 17, David's dependence upon God in the midst of trial and opposition is revealed. We must understand the context and doctrinal teaching of the Psalm 18. This is a prophecy of the second coming of Christ and His deliverance of His people Israel. Verses 4-6 describe the hopeless situation; verses 7-15 describe the Day of the Lord. This also helps us make sense of other passages within the psalm. Verses 20-24 seem to focus on the good works of the individual being delivered. We must remember this is not a picture of our salvation, but rather the second coming. Those people who did not take the mark of the beast did keep themselves clean, and that is whom Christ will deliver.

Psalm 19:1-6 corresponds to Romans 1:19-20. The creation of God does show forth His glory. Also, verses 4-6 tell us that the rising of the sun should daily be a reminder of the second coming of Christ.

The complete power of the Word of God is on display in verses 7-9 and verse 10 is a haunting statement to our generation – do we really desire God's Word as much as money? Do we really believe verse 11 that there is great reward (eternal) in keeping His Word?

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." - Psalm 20:7. This verse is such a popular verse that sometimes we overlook its power. Where do we actually place our trust? We will always say – God. But is that the reality in our life? Do I really trust in the Lord, or in my job? Maybe my family? Maybe my goodness? It is a daily battle to remember the name of the Lord our God and trust in Him alone.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

Psalm 19:4-6 – The rising of the sun pictures the second coming of Christ.

DAY 122

TODAY'S READING: PSALM 21-29

OVERVIEW:

Psalms of victory (21), shame (25), innocence (26), devotion (27), hope (28) and glory (29); Psalms regarding the future sufferings (22), shepherding (23) and reign of Jesus Christ (24).

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

One of the most comforting characteristics of the Psalms is the unashamed, unrestrained honesty with which each has been written. In Psalm 28:1, David says, "I feel like you've abandoned me, God"; in Psalm 25:11, he begs, "God, I know I've sinned greatly, but please help me"; and we end our reading with David joyfully declaring the unrivaled power of God's Word in Psalm 29. It may be hard to believe that this "emotional basket case" is the same man who killed a lion and a bear with his own bare hands; the same man who slew Goliath with one little stone; the same valiant warrior who Israel claimed had killed tens of thousands (1 Sam. 18:7). It may be hard to believe until you remember that God doesn't look on the outward appearance, but on the heart (1 Sam. 16:7). The man that God selected to rule Israel wasn't a man who could put on a fake smile and act like everything is okay. God wanted a man with a heart brave enough to slay giants and tender enough to lead Israel compassionately because that's the kind of heart God has (Acts 13:22). David's mission statement is found in Psalm 27:4, 8.

David set his entire life to one goal: the pursuit of God. As a result, David ferociously sought for God in every circumstance of his life. In the depths of depression, David scratched and clawed his way to find the reason for God's apparent silence; at the peak of joy, he reveled in the glory and strength of his God. Whatever emotional state he was in, David struggled and fought to find God, and as a result, he began to naturally see God everywhere: as a shepherd (Psalm 23), as a light (Psalm 27), as a rock (Psalm 28) and as thunder (Psalm 29:3). Like He said, "Seek and ye shall find" (Luke 11:9).

Turning our attention to Psalm 22, God inspired David to write a song about the sufferings of Jesus Christ one thousand years before it happened. This Psalm cannot be about David, because never did God literally forsake him (vs. 1); never were his bones out of joint (vs. 14); never were his hands and feet pierced (vs. 16); and never were his garments parted and gambled for (vs. 18). Only Jesus Christ fits this description (see Mt. 27:35, 46). In the writing of this Psalm, it's almost as if God invited David to describe the most horrible kind of suffering and death he could imagine. So David records all that his mind could conjure: betrayal, false accusations, humiliation, torture and abandonment. Then, a millennium later, God

turns that nightmare into reality, subjecting His own Son, Jesus Christ, to what David described. In so doing, God forever settled any accusations that He is ignorant of, indifferent to, or absent in our human sufferings for He endured all that the human imagination could contrive. Never can we say that God does not understand what we are going through (see Heb. 4:14-16; 2:9-10,14,17,18).

Because the Psalms are so candid and personal, you can easily find one for any and every circumstance or emotion you encounter. Are you weighed down by the guilt of your past sin? Turn Psalm 25 into a personal prayer. Are you being falsely accused and in need of strength? Try Psalm 26. Need a reminder of God's goodness and gentleness? Dive into Psalm 23. Whatever the circumstances, remember: God can handle your ups and downs, your doubts and optimistic declarations. Pour out your heart to Him. Besides, He already knows what you're thinking, you might as well tell Him.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

Psalms 22, 23, and 24 provide a prophetic description of the person and work of Jesus Christ. Psalm 22 presents Christ as our suffering Saviour (Matt. 27:46) while Psalm 23 reveals Him as our risen Shepherd (John 10:11) and Psalm 24 makes us witnesses of His future triumphant return as the King of glory (Rev. 19).

DAY 123

TODAY'S READING: PSALM 30-36

OVERVIEW:

David's adoration of God's mighty power; David's trust in God; the blessedness of God's forgiveness; the Lord hears the righteous; David's prayer for safety; the contrast of the godly and the wicked.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The historic context of Psalm 30 is established by the title "A Psalm and Song at the Dedication of the House of David." The psalm has tremendous prophetic ramifications, however, as it foretells the coming history of Israel – Israel's horrendous "night of weeping" (30:5a), followed by the "joy that cometh in the morning" (30:5b), when the Day of the Lord arises on this planet at the Second Coming of Christ, as He establishes His millennial kingdom. In a practical way, the psalmist provides an example for us to "extol" the Lord (vs.1); to "sing and give thanks" to Him (vs. 4,12); to "cry" out to Him, making "supplication" to Him (vs. 8).

Psalm 31 is significant for several reasons. First, it leads us to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His very last words before He died, (Father, "into thine hand I commit my spirit" – 31:5 c.f. Luke 23:36).

Secondly, it is significant because of the descriptive words and phrases that point to the awesomeness of our God. He is our "Righteousness" (31:1); our "Strong Rock" (31:2); our "House of Defense" (31:2); our "Rock and Fortress" (31:3); our "Guide" (31:3); our "Strength" (31:4); and the "Preserver of the faithful: (31:23). Is there anything you could possibly face today that one or more of those characteristics do not address?

Sometimes as you read through the psalms, depending upon what is going on in your life, you can almost feel that you wrote them! A good example of that for many of you may be verses 9-18 of Psalm 31. If you are facing what seems to be an insurmountable foe, try using the words of the psalmist in these verses (9-18), to voice your prayer to the Lord.

Psalm 32 is a psalm of confession. Verses 1-4 show us the result of not "cleansing ourselves of all filthiness of the flesh and spirit" (II Cor. 7:1). Verse 7 reminds us of the place of singing in the midst of spiritual warfare (II Chron. 20:21-23; Col. 3:16; Eph 5:19).

In Psalm 33 the psalmist praises the Lord on an instrument of 10 strings (33:2). You may not be able to play a musical instrument with 10 strings to praise the Lord, but you can BE one! Use your 2 feet to "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing" (Col. 1:10). Use your 2 hands to hold the powerful sword of God's Word to carry out the work of the Lord (I Cor. 15:58). Use your 2 eyes to see the needs of the people around you that need to be met (I John 3:17). Use your 2 ears to hear the Word of the Lord (James 1:19; Prov. 2:2). Use your one neck to bow your will in submission to Christ's Lordship (Ex. 32:9). And, use your one mouth to praise the Lord, to speak the Word of the Lord to the lost, and to speak words of comfort, encouragement, and hope to believers. Be an instrument of 10 strings to praise the Lord today!

The psalmist prayed in Psalm 33:8, "Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him." The prayer will be answered at the Second Coming of Christ when "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11; II Thess. 1:7-10). Psalm 33:12-22 is a great way of saying, "If God be for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31), and if God be against us, it doesn't matter who is for us!"

Are you living in fear today? Psalm 34:1-4 presents a sevenfold prescription for being "delivered from all your fears" (vs. 4): 1) Bless the Lord at all times (vs. 1a); 2) Allow His praise to continually be in your mouth (vs. 1b); 3) Make your boast in the Lord (vs. 2a); 4) Humble yourself (vs. 2b); 5) Magnify the Lord (vs. 3a); 6) Exalt His name (vs. 3b); 7) Seek the Lord (vs. 4a).

Psalm 35:1-9 is a reminder to us of the lessons we learned about spiritual warfare from II Chronicles 20. The psalmist reiterates the truth that "the battle is not yours, but Gods" (II Chron. 20:15); "ye shall not need to fight in this battle" (II Chron. 20:17a); and "set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord" (II Chron. 20:17b). Note in Psalm 35:12, in a "rational" world, no good deed goes unrewarded. In the "real" world, however, no good deed goes unpunished! Sad, but true.

Psalm 36 contrasts the sinful man (36:1-4) with the saved man (36:5-12). As you read these verses, keep in mind that the "old man" (i.e. our "flesh") is still a part of us; a part of us we have been commanded to "put off" (Eph 4:22)

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

Through DAVID as he "COMMITTS HIS SPIRIT" to the Father – Psalm 31:5 (Luke 23:46)

As the "ANGEL OF THE LORD" – Psalm 34:7 (The Angel of the Lord is an Old Testament appearance of the preincarnate Christ.)

As the One in whom NO BONE IS BROKEN – Psalm 34:20 (John 19:36).

DAY 124

TODAY'S READING: PSALM 37-44

OVERVIEW:

Instructions regarding the destiny of the wicked; David's petition during a time of trouble; the brevity and vanity of life; prayer and praise for deliverance; sickness, betrayal and responding to enemies; the soul's longing for God's presence; deliverance and hope in God; complaint about defeat and cry for help.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Psalms is not merely a book of praise; it is also a book of practical counsel. In today's reading you will discover how to deal with fretfulness (37), failing strength (38-39), rest in God's faithfulness (40), and respond to a friend's faithfulness (41).

In Psalm 39 and verse 4, David prayed, "Lord, make me to know... the measure of my days." David's prayer points out that the brevity of life is an issue everyone should consider, not just senior citizens. He realized how easy it is to get so caught up with material achievements that we forget the purpose of life. Life is short and opportunities for fulfilling God's purposes will soon be "no more" (39:13). Compared to eternity, our life on earth is very short. It is of utmost importance that, just as or Lord did, we need to fulfill our purpose for existence. Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night comes, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Psalm 41 provides us with the process of praise in the midst of suffering. It is a "how to" manual for blessing the Lord while bedridden. Apparently, the psalmist is suffering from a physical ailment or injury (vs. 3). What begins as a third-person description of the man who takes pity on the poor and needy (vs. 1-3), soon becomes the plea of a discouraged, bedridden saint: "be merciful unto ME heal MY soul" (vs. 4). The longer the psalmist meditates on the Lord, the more confident he becomes of God's strength in his hour of need.

If you are sick or suffering today, you can experience God's blessing even in the midst of your recuperation. Instead of complaining about your condition, use the time to meditate on the mercies of God (vs. 4, 10). Praise Him for His deliverance (vs. 1), preservation (vs. 2), strength (vs. 3), and favour (vs. 11). As God gives you opportunity, share your meditations on God's mercies with others. Your testimony of His mercy and salvation (Titus 3:4,5).

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

One who does the will of God – Psalm 40:6-8 (John 4:34; Hebrews 10:7-9)

DAY 125

TODAY'S READING: PSALM 45-53

OVERVIEW:

A description of our King, and the King's daughter; the psalmist's confidence in and praise of God; the deception of worldly wealth; David's prayer of confession after sinning with Bathsheba; the tendency of the tongue toward evil; the foolishness of atheism.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Many of you have learned that there are three layers of application in Scripture. Because these three layers are so easily identifiable in the Psalms, and so necessary to really understand them, perhaps the most profitable use of this space today will be to review these three applications (i.e. Rather than giving you a fish, teach you how to fish!).

Application #1 – The Historical Application

Obviously, the events we read about in Scripture really happened to real people like you and me at a particular time in history. Understanding the historical context is vital to proper interpretation and allows us to properly make the second application of Scripture ...

Application #2 – The Devotional or Inspirational Application

From the events, situations and experiences of those real people we were talking about in the Historical Application, we learn lessons we can apply to our own lives from their successes and failures as we face similar circumstances and situations.

Almost every "fundamentalist" or "Bible-believing" person is fully acquainted with these first two layers of application. Yet, there is a third layer that most people fail to see. It is the third application that is really the sparkplug that ignites the whole supernatural engine of the Bible, causing us to stand in complete awe of the Word of God and the God of the Word!

Application #3 – The Doctrinal or Practical Application

This application identifies what the event or situation in history foreshadows or pictures prophetically. It is the real "teaching" of the passage (Doctrine = Teaching). Time will not permit an exhausting of the subject, and barely a decent explanation, but God uses the record of history in the Old Testament to point to the key events that will take place in the future. Far from being even remotely connected or mildly associated with the allegorical approach to biblical interpretation (i.e. Randomly choosing what you think or want the "hidden" meaning of the passage to be with no rhyme or reason from a hermeneutical standpoint), the doctrinal application employs strict rules of Bible study to make consistent prophetic applications. Once you begin to identify this third layer of application in the Psalms, you'll almost begin to wonder what you used to think the Psalms were about!

Let's take just a second to talk about these three layers of application in the Psalms.

In identifying the Historical Application, recognize that some event and/or circumstances and situations in the life of the psalmist prompted the writing of his song. Many times the Historical Application is even identified in the title, as in Psalm 51 in today's reading: "A psalm of David when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba." As you can understand, knowing that will make this Psalm take on much more significant meaning!

From a Devotional or Inspirational (Practical) standpoint, the Psalms are filled with personal application and meaning because they so mirror and express how we think and feel about ourselves, God, life, people, etc. as we face the circumstances of our life. They become a great "attitude adjustment" as we see the psalmist work through similar experiences of life.

Though all of the Psalms in today's reading are jam-packed with the third layer of application, Psalm 46 is perhaps the best example to use to "open the windows" to be able to see it. Obviously, the psalms are songs that were actually sung. They word "Selah" that you so often see appearing in the Psalms (71 times in all) is there because it is a rest written into the musical score. The word made it into the canon of God's Holy Word because it is a key that God uses to help us identify the prophetic context of the

passage. At the Second Coming of Christ, our Lord Jesus Christ will arrive on this planet to establish His millennial reign. The "Millennium," as we refer to it, is a 1000 year period of "rest" on this planet, specifically identified in Rev. 20:1-6, referred to as the "rest" for the people of God in Heb. 4, and called the "times" of RESTitution of all things" and the "times of refreshing" in Acts 3:19-21.

When you see the word "Selah," put the brakes on, throw your eyes and your brain into reverse, because God just let you know what the passage is meaning from a doctrinal or prophetic standpoint (i.e. the Second Coming and/or Millennium). Notice in Psalm 46, three perfect descriptions of the Millennium, each marked by the Word "Selah" : 1) Ps. 46:1-3; 2) Ps. 46:4-7a; 3) Ps. 46:7b-11. Notice in Psalm 50:1-6, a perfect description of the Second Coming, and what follows next? Rest! ("Selah" – the Millennium!) You get the idea. I'll leave the rest of them for you to see and enjoy for yourself!

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

Through the 10 times the word "Selah" is used in today's reading, pointing to Christ's Second Coming and Millennial Reign – Psalm 46:3,7,11; 47:4; 48:8; 49:13,15; 50:6; 52:3,5.