Psalm 86

Praise Sandwich

I. Slide#1 Announce:
   A. Slide#2 CM new email address.
   B. Church Beach Day this Sat - all welcome. Harbor Beach in Oceanside, Tower 16. BYOE.
   C. A group called RippleFX we started as a collaboration of Advocates, Student Venture and California Family Council. Sean McDowell guest. This Tues Aug.13th, 7pm here at CM.
      1. Slide#3 Show Video
   D. Slide#4 Pray 4 Linda Provence: (listening from home). Has open heart surgery tomorrow 7:15am at Loma Linda. To repair several different issues with her heart & valve. Really nervous.

II. Intro:
   A. Slide#5 Title/Outline: Here we have a Praise Sandwich. Prayer - Praise - Prayer.
   B. Here we have a mosaic of expressions found in other Psalms.
   C. It’s a lonely prayer of David.
      1. It’s a simple opening & closing prayer, with the deliberate Praise in the middle. Deliberate? Yes, because there is no end insight as of yet of the pressure...nor an answer.
         a) In which area of your life today do you need God to do great things or show His strength or forgive, or just show Himself Good?

III. Slide#6 PRAYER (1-7)
   A. His appeal is to God’s compassion. A 3-fold cord binds David to his God.
      1. Slide#7a The bond of Covenant - you are my God.
      2. Slide#7b The bond of servant & Master - Save Your servant...
      3. Slide#7c The bond of the truster & the one who is trusted - ...who trusts in You.
   B. David sees himself as “poor, needy, & godly”.
      1. Godly in the sense, he’s been the recipient of God’s stedfast love & is in turn devoted to God in the covenant relationship.
      2. He describes God as, “Good, forgiving, abounding in steadfast love.”
         a) Forgiving, suggests he feels the need of God’s forgiveness.
   C. Slide#8 (4) Rejoice/Gladden-is a bold request at such a time. But...there are 3 good reasons for it[3 for’s]
      1. Single-mindedness - For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
      2. The Character of God - For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.
      3. The Conviction God answers prayer - For You will answer me.
D. Slide#9,10 (7) What is the quickest way to make the bell ring in heaven...the touch of a troubled hand.

1. When we are full of the interests of this life, of prosperity & self-content; when the voices of applause are heard all around us; when our house is full of children or the joy of grandchildren, & our bank accounts are healthy; our prayers halt and God seems far away.

2. But let trouble come - let the waters be swollen by many joining streams rising within your soul, so that lover & friend are far away, & you’re surrounded by all fears, then God bends his ear & heart.

3. Try to think of trouble as storing in your heart seeds of joy, as the farmer buries the seeds of spring, in the autumn fields. A veiled angel...& nothing less.

E. No wonder then this next part is pure praise to God.

IV. Slide#11 PRAISE (8-13)

A. David’s praise is not random. It starts in heaven (8a) moves to nature (8b) mankind (9) & history (10). Finally, he exposes himself to this Sovereignty(11) & its searching implications.

B. Lord (7x’s in this Psalm - 3x’s in this stanza) = Master/Sovereign. [distinct from LORD = Yahweh]

1. To God in this capacity David now gives His full attention [Master/Sovereign].

C. Slide#12a (11) This is a prayer about forming the right habits rather than making the right moves (not belittling those).

D. Slide#12b Unite my heart - a beautiful metaphor, conveying the idea, that the heart of man is full of noise, torn in pieces, & often scattered about in fragments.

1. Its a state when the heart may be: insincere, uncertain, hesitant, vacillating, in a tug-of-war.

2. The uniting of a heart is when God gathers it to Himself & holds it together in a state of steady and preserving obedience.

E. (12) I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart.

1. Slide#12c His whole heart is absorbed in praise. He’s not going to wait passively for the spiritual maturity he has been seeking in vs.11.

F. (13) Nor is this praise simply an exercise...there is abundant reason for it.

1. You have delivered/rescued/saved my soul from the depths of Sheol.

G. Slide#13 Like David...you need a God-Encounter. (just like Isaiah in Is.6) You need a God-Quake. Then a Self-Quake. Which leads to a World-Quake. (6:1-4; 5-7; 8-13)


   a) Its basic meaning is “to be heavy, or weighty”.
2. If you drop an object into the **water**, that’s heavier than the water, you make a **water-quake**. If you drop an object onto a sheet of **ice**, that’s heavier than the ice, you make an **ice-quake**. Because the object has more **glory** than the water/ice.

   a) Whenever God shows up/comes down, in **Sinai** (the mountain quaked) or at **Pentecost** (the room shook) because of His **glory**. [God’s a **Quaker**!]

   b) When compared to God everything else has no weight.

H. Slide#14a There is a big difference then in **believing** in God & having an **experience** in God’s glory.

1. Slide#14b It goes from having a **concept** about God, to having a **reality** of God.

   a) God as a concept is **lighter** than you (you shape Him).

   b) God as a reality is **heavier** than you (he shapes you).

2. When God is a **reality** into your life, it changes everything. Everything is rearranged. Your furniture is rearranged. Your view of everything has changed.

I. Ok, so how do I know if I have had an **encounter** w/God or experienced a **God-Quake**?

1. Well, Isaiah’s example in **ch.6** says its when you experience God’s **beauty** “I saw the Lord”, it works 2 things into your life...Humility & purity. “I am undone”, “Your iniquity is taken away,...your sin purged”.

J. This is different with all of us. When God became a **reality** to **Jeremiah** he told him to stop **trembling** (insecurities). When God became a **reality** to **Isaiah** he told him to start **trembling** (needed humility).

V. Slide#15 **PRAYER** (14-17)

A. So far David has confined his prayer to: his own relationship with God; God’s own character; God’s own sovereign rights.

   1. So the temptation to **pour out a tirade** instead of a **petition** has been overcome.

B. Slide#16a Remember 3 things when you pray:

   1. **Remember who God is** - Never forget His attributes. Vs.5,15

   2. **Remember what God does** - He does wondrous things. Jer.33:3

   3. **Remember what God promises** - He promises to answer us. You will answer me.

C. Slide#17a Wrap your whole person into prayer.

   1. **Pray with an open mind** - I will walk in Your truth.

   2. **Pray with an obedient will** - Lord, if You show me Your way, I will walk/obey in it.
3. Slide#17c Pray with a united heart - a heart wholly fixed on God. Not have 2 masters.

D. Slide#18 Praying with Arguments (clear reason) - Spurgeon said we should learn to pray with arguments. We should sharpen our thinking by learning to express the reasons why God should answer our prayers affirmatively.
1. It also should be clear that this is not so much for God’s benefit as for ours.
2. If we cannot think of reasons why God should answer our prayers, it is probably the case that our requests are wrong & need to be revised or redirected.

E. David gives 8 reasons why God should answer it. All starting with the word for (means because).

F. Slide#19a 1st 4 reasons were based upon David & his need:
1. For I am poor & needy (1) - God, I’m not mighty or self-sufficient.
2. Slide#19a For I am holy/loyal/devoted to You (2) - God, I’m in covenant relationship with You.
3. Slide#19b For I cry/call to You all day long (3) - God, I’m praying.
4. Slide#19c For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul (4) - Not to many gods. Only You can help.

G. Slide#20a 2nd 4 reasons were based on God & God’s character:
1. For You will answer me (7) earlier he asked God to hear. Now he’s confident He’ll answer.
2. Slide#20b For You are great and do wondrous things (10) - God’s not only a prayer-hearing & prayer-answering God, but a God who is able to do what the petitioner is asking.
3. Slide#20c For great is Your mercy toward me (13) - God in His mercy has already set His Hesed His covenant love upon the one praying.
4. Slide#20d For You, Lord, have helped me & comfort me (17) - God helped David in the past, will again.