

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 steadfast 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)
1. **Its experiencing Gods Glory**. Glory = *kabowd*.
 - 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. **Slide#16b** Remember what **God does** - He does **wondrous things**. Jer.33:3
 3. **Slide#16c** 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. **Slide#17b** 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 w/ 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.
 5. **Slide#21 blank**