

## Taste and See that the Lord is Good

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Sorry for the 60 folks who showed up here last week. We were at Rivoli's.
- B. Slide2 Rachel Smith will share for a little bit from the Brazil team.  
Slide3 Alyssa Silva is going to share from the Tanzania team.

### II. Slide4 Intro:

- A. Remember when David had a *changed behavior* but a **fixed heart**? (1 Sa.21:10-15)
- B. Fear of Saul temporarily replaced faith in the Lord. **Fear is always the enemy of Faith.**
  - 1. So David flees 23 miles to the enemy city of Gath.
  - 2. Should be safe from Saul in Philistine area & maybe from friends back home.
  - 3. But **Fear is always the enemy of Faith.** To believe God, to rest in the Word, to enjoy the promises of God is to conquer our fear.
    - a) No wonder when fear comes in the door...faith flies out the window.
  - 4. Here we have a good man in bad company. Why did he go here? We hate to admit it but sometimes a persecuted Christian gets better treatment from the enemies of God's people than from his own Christian friends.
    - a) It was the king of Judah who imprisoned Jeremiah & the king of Babylon who set him free.
    - b) We glory in our wonderful gospel of love & mercy for the **unsaved**, but we usually act as if we have no gospel for the **saint** who has been tripped by the devil!<sup>1</sup>
- C. (11) David the king - Some King? He had no country, no queen, no subjects, no friends.
  - 1. All he had left was his **self-respect**...well, until that was stripped away also when he faked insanity.
    - a) What an *undignified* moment in the life of a man who had been anointed by the spirit of God. How utterly *unworthy* of his calling was his behavior.
    - b) But, we can probably all think of a time where we *panicked in God's will* & found ourselves acting like a complete fool. *From national hero to madman.*

<sup>1</sup> Alan Redpath; The Making of the Man of God; pg.72

D. From *pats on the back*, to looking over his back, **because** of the fear of getting *stabbed in the back*. *Israel's Most Wanted!*

1. Now his **enemies** discarded him. **Would God** also abandon him?
2. **It's easy to lose 20-20 spiritual vision**. Its easy to develop a **spiritual squint**, to see things in the wrong perspective, & to start to panic.

E. **But** I'm glad the bible turns the key & opens the door to the *inner shrine* of this man's life & shows us...a *changed behavior* **yes**, **but** a *fixed heart* on God. (*we'll see in Ps.34*)

1. Don't just dismiss David as another casualty. **We** might be finished with him... **but God** sure wasn't.
2. Whatever happened to David in Gath caused him to **acknowledge the inadequacies of his own wisdom** & brought him to a place where he again placed his **confidence in the Lord**.
  - a) Let's remember, *It takes a moment to make a convert; it takes a lifetime to manufacture a saint*.
3. **Ps.56** was his prayer for God's **help**. **Ps.34** was his hymn of **praise**.
4. **Ps.34** also shares that he did alot of praying while in **Gath**. **See 34:4,6,15b,17,18**.
  - a) He learned that *the fear of the Lord conquers every other fear*.

F. **Slide5 Psalm 34 INTRO: It's an acrostic**. It's a page from David's diary.

**It's David's lesson** on trying to find protection **in** his **enemy**.

**It's David's personal testimony** of what God did for him when he found his *heart crushed*

G. **Slide6 Title: Taste and See that the Lord is Good**

1. **Outline: I Will Bless. I Will Teach**.

### III. **Slide7 I WILL BLESS (1-10)**

A. (1) Easier said than done. **Really, bless him at all times**. [why I did intro, this isn't king David lounging on his king size fluffy bed in his palace]

1. If we're to **praise Him at all times**...it must be important.
  - a) But **how**, when you feel weak, or your body is racked w/pain, circumstances are difficult, watching a close friend go through a hard time?
2. **Yet**, it's what **Jesus** did before he went to Calvary...He sang, Mt.26:30.

3. **Yet**, it's what **Paul & Silas** did in prison when their bodies hurt. Acts 16:25
  4. Praise *magnifies the Lord* (3) that's why we should do it at **all** times.
- B. (6) He calls himself, **This poor man** - just then he was. He just had to **beg bread & borrow a sword**.
- C. **Slide 8** (6-8) The Lord **saves** (6) **keeps** (7) & **satisfies** (8).
1. **Saves** - us not *from* troubles, **but out of**. *Big difference*.
  2. **Keeps** - Jude 24 *Now to Him who is able to **keep** you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.*
  3. **Satisfies** - some of the experiences of life tastes **sour**. Sometimes the cup handed to us is not one of sweetness **but** of bitterness. Jesus had to drink a bitter cup.
    - a) Do you know what makes the bitter cup satisfying & sweet? It's *tasting* the Lord **in** it. When you *taste the Lord* in the experiences of life, they become **sweet in** Him.
    - b) **Note**: *not* taste & see **if** the Lord is good...**but that** He is!
  4. An **atheist** was lecturing on *the unreasonableness of salvation just by believing on Jesus*. He then invited anyone with a question to come the platform. Immediately a man, who before his conversion had been a notorious drunkard in the town, stepped up. W/o asking a question he coolly and quietly peeled an orange and slowly began to eat it. The exasperated atheist lecturer thundered out, **"Man, stop your acting foolish and tell me your question!"** The man finished his orange and looking him straight in the eye said, **"Tell me, was this orange sweet or sour?"** "How should I know?" said the atheist. "I never tasted it." "Then stop criticizing the gospel until you too have tasted it. I have tasted it and know that it is the power of God which is able to transform a hell-bound drunkard into a saint." And pointing to his town's folk he concluded, "And those can testify what it has done for me. Don't find fault with something you never tasted. Meeting adjourned!"
    - a) An **atheist** cannot find **God for the same reason** that a **thief** cannot find a policeman. *Taste & see that the Lord IS Good!*

#### IV. Slide9 I WILL TEACH (11-22)

- A. Slide10a (12-15) Vs.13-15 seem to give 4 answers to the question in vs.12.
1. Control your tongue (13).
  2. Slide10b Depart from evil & do good (14a) - sow the seeds of goodness, you'll reap the fruit of goodness.
  3. Slide10c Seek peace & pursue it (14b) *don't walk around w/a revolver in your hand.*
  4. Slide10d Trust the Lord because He's watching you & His ears are open to their cry (15)
    - a) His ears are **open** to their cry - open means *attentive to*. *He's both watching you & He's listening to you.*
- B. Slide11 (17,18) Is your heart hurting? Heartbroken, broken heart, heartache? We've all encountered...*dashed hopes, smashed plans, a crushing experience.*
1. Maybe you feel like a bird with a broken wing, an animal w/a broken leg, a woman w/a broken heart, a man w/a broken purpose.
    - a) Slide12 You may hide from man, but the great *Lover of man* meets you there.
    - b) He comes. He sits. He waits. *Brokenness attracts God.*
    - c) It's dark, you think you're deserted, but it's not so...God is there. God is near.
    - d) Call to Him...*a whisper* will bring His response.
  2. Slide13 Good news...Jesus was *sent to heal the broken hearted*. Lk.4:18
  3. What's the secret? *Give the Lord all the pieces & He will heal you.*
- C. Slide14a (22) Trust in Him...for what?
1. Trust in the Lord with your **frustrations** (17). *Trouble* = to be in a bind, *frustrated*.
    - a) Sometimes we bring trouble on ourselves, as David did here.
    - b) Sometimes other people cause our trouble, as Saul did for David.
    - c) Sometimes we have troubles because God knows we need them.
      - (1) We need to pray for His help & trust the Lord with your frustrations.
  2. Slide14b Trust in the Lord with your **feelings** (18). *David was repenting because of his sin & his heart was broken. God respects that attitude of heart.*

3. Slide14c Trust in the Lord with your **future** (20). **Guard** = to exercise great care over, to protect.
  - a) When **Jesus** was on the cross, *the devil* was doing his worse, **yet** he could only do what God *permitted*. (couldn't break His bones).
  - b) God was guarding His own Son, & He will guard **us**.
4. Slide14d Trust in the Lord with your **foes** (21). Their own sin will slay them. *Give your enemies to the Lord. Let Him be their judge.*
5. Slide14e Trust in the Lord with your **failures** (22). **Condemned**=to be held guilty
  - a) David sinned against the Lord (the cause of his broken heart) **but** God rescued & forgave him.