

Sermon Discussion – 14 July 2024

Read Psalm 20

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

We all face tough times where we struggle. Can you share a time when you felt overwhelmed by life's challenges? How did you cope with it?

Observation *Discovering the context*

Psalm 20 is a prayer for the king, attributed to David. It is often seen as a communal prayer for the king before he goes into battle. It reflects the deep trust and reliance of the Israelites on God's protection and favour for their leader, and by extension, for the nation.

- In what ways did the role of the king in ancient Israel differ from or resemble modern political leadership?
- How might the king's religious practices and sacrifices influence the people's perception of his leadership and relationship with God?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. The psalm begins in verse 1 mentioning "the day of trouble." Why do you think King David placed his trust in God during times of trouble? How does this compare to where you place your trust?
2. Read v. 1-2. Why do you think the psalm specifically mentions help coming from the sanctuary and Zion? What does this reveal about the Israelites' view of God's presence?
3. What is the significance of setting up banners in God's name (v. 5), and how does this act serve as a symbol of trust and victory?
4. What does the contrast between trust in chariots and horses (v.7) versus trust in the name of the Lord (v. 1, 5) teach us about God's power over human strength.
5. What can we learn from the final verse about the nature of prayer, faith, and expectation during times of uncertainty or conflict?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- The psalm emphasises the importance of bringing God into our troubles. What practical steps can you take this week to invite God's presence and character into your challenges?
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 highlights the idea that our weakness reveals God's strength. Can you share an experience where you felt inadequate but saw God's strength manifest in your life?