

UnCommon Sense - The Search for Biblical Wisdom

Sermon Discussion- 30th June 2024

Read Psalm 39

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

The beginning of the Psalm shows that David begins his prayer with silence before God. As we read the Psalm in its fullness, we see that David has a lot of emotions building up within him. Has there been a time when you have struggled to speak with God? What have been some of the barriers to engaging with him?

Observation *Discovering the context*

Psalm 39 builds on some of the things David has been struggling with in Psalm 38, where David outlines how his physical body is failing. In Psalm 39, David places the struggles and the sufferings he is facing in the light of eternity, before an eternal God.

- How easy is it for us to face our mortality before God?
- What are the different worldviews in our culture today regarding eternity?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

David uses an example in v.6 of the wicked around him having money as their God.

1. What are some of the idols that we serve, which are equally meaningless?
2. Why do we put so much of ourselves into these idols? What is their appeal?

David understands how brief his life is and therefore, he places his hope in God. In v.8 He asks God to deliver him from all of his sins.

3. How do you respond when someone highlights an area of sin in your life?
4. What are the consequences of not repenting of all of our sin in our relationship with God, with other Christians, and with those who don't know Jesus?

David speaks in v.9-13 that he is being disciplined by God. When God disciplines he does this in a loving and perfect manner, not like us. He disciplines to draw us away from the things that are dearest to us- the idols in our lives, so that we can worship him.

5. David's response in his suffering is to engage with God in prayer. What are some of the ways we respond to difficult times in our lives?
6. How does faith in Jesus help us in our suffering?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- How can we support those who are struggling or experiencing suffering in our community?
- How does this understanding of the brevity of life impact our desire to share the gospel with those who don't yet know Jesus?