

The Poor & Needy Man

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 86

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Blessed are the poor in spirit (Mt 5:3)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 5:3). It is the *poor in spirit* who are doing God’s work in the world and will be blessed by Him.

Psalm 86 - A Prayer of David.

¹Bow down Your ear, O LORD, hear me; For I *am* poor and needy. ²Preserve my life, for I *am* holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You! ³Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to You all day long. ⁴Rejoice the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ⁵For You, Lord, *are* good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. ⁶Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; And attend to the voice of my supplications. ⁷In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, For You will answer me.

⁸Among the gods *there is* none like You, O Lord; Nor *are there any works* like Your works. ⁹All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name. ¹⁰For You *are* great, and do wondrous things; You alone *are* God. ¹¹Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. ¹²I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore. ¹³For great *is* Your mercy toward me, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

¹⁴O God, the proud have risen against me, And a mob of violent *men* have sought my life, And have not set You before them. ¹⁵But You, O Lord, *are* a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth. ¹⁶Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your maidservant. ¹⁷Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see *it* and be ashamed, Because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

II. The Poor and Needy Man

A. Praying for deliverance and mercy in time of trouble (1-7)

The first thing that David does *in the day of his trouble* is to pray for deliverance and mercy. David’s livelihood and his very life are being threatened and so he cries out for salvation (2). Yahweh is David’s *God* and David is His _____ *who trusts in Him* (2b), God’s anointed King, the forerunner of Jesus our Messiah (cf. 2 Sam 3:18; 7:5,8). David knows what to do *in the day of his trouble*: call upon God (7a). Why? Because God *will answer* (7b).

B. Praising God and praying for growth in time of trouble (8-13 cf. Rev 15:3-4)

The second thing David does is to praise God and pray that God would teach him and _____ him through this trial. *Adonai* is the *living God* who has created and sustained all *things* (8, 10). And this *greatness* will one day be acknowledged by *all nations* (9). As the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb declares in John’s Revelation:

³... *“Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! ⁴Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.”* (Revelation 15:3-4)

C. Praying for mercy and a sign for good in time of trouble (14-17)

David concludes by praying that God would sustain him and give him a _____ for good. He explains in more detail the *trouble* he is facing. Wicked men are persecuting him. But David is not bereft of help. Why? Because the Lord is *a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth* (15). This God will help him even when men mistreat him.

III. Responding to Troubled Times

A. Pray for deliverance and mercy (cf. Ps 20; Phil 4:4-7; Heb 5:5-11; Jas 5:16-18)

David teaches us to deal with troubled times by crying out to God for mercy and deliverance.

⁴*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!* ⁵*Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.* ⁶*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;* ⁷*and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)*

Because we know that *the Lord is near to us*, we need not be *anxious* but imitate David in crying out to God for deliverance. In all this, David is a mere type of our Lord Jesus. Paul writes that *“in the days of His flesh, when [Jesus] had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered”* (Heb 5:7-8). Jesus too prayed Psalm 86. He faced the opposition of proud and violent men who had no fear of God before their eyes. They believed that they were a law unto themselves. *“Do you not know,”* Pilate demanded of Jesus, *“that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”* But Jesus answered, *“You could have _____ power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above”* (Jn 19:10-11).

B. Remember the Lord God (5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15 cf. Ex 34:6-7)

So why ought we to pray? This is the second thing David teaches us in times of trouble: remember the character of the Lord our God. Throughout this psalm, David meditates on the moment when God revealed Himself to Moses. God descended in His glory cloud and proclaimed His Name to Moses (Ex 34:6-7):

⁶... *“Yahweh, Yahweh God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”*

Amid the troubles of this life, we find a rock of refuge and a shelter from the storm in our God. The more we know Him and meditate upon His character, the more unshaken we shall be when God starts shaking the world around us.

C. Be a man or woman of faith and integrity (James 1:2-4; 1 Pet 1:6-9; 4:12-19)

What is it to be a *“poor and needy man”*? The *poor and needy man* is he who is *godly* (2) and who *directs his prayers to God alone* (3). He does not pray to idols, nor does he harbor secret or open sin. While praying for deliverance (1-7, 16), he *praises God* (8-10, 12-13) and prays that God would *teach him His ways* so that he might *walk in the truth* and have *a heart devoted to God* (11).

²*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (Jas 1:2ff)*

While *the poor and needy man* knows that the wicked are driven by evil motives, nevertheless he also remembers that none of our trials catch God unawares and that God has His own reasons for putting us in this trial and that His reasons are for our good. ***Don’t get so fixated on the evil doings of evil men that you miss the _____ workings of your gracious God.***

IV. Conclusion (cf. 1 Pet 4:19; 2:23-25)