

Listen to or watch the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

Ice Breaker: In under two minutes...share what your greatest challenge was this past week?

1. Share one verse from your private worship that blessed you this week.
2. Do you believe that adversity and even suffering is within God's plan for your life?
  1. Whatever your answer, why do you believe it? What does the Bible say?
    1. Consider Rom 8:16-21; 2 Cor 1:3-7; 1 Pet 4:12-19
  2. What purpose do you see for adversity and suffering? What does the Bible say?
    1. Consider Rom 5:3-5; Rom 8:22-30; 2 Cor 6:3-13
3. Why are we so averse to suffering? What is right about this aversion and what is wrong about it?
  1. Consider Gen 3:16-19; Rom 8:23-25
  2. Then consider Luke 9:24, 16:19-25 and also remember your answers to question #2 above.
4. Pastor David drew from the text of Psalm 61 that going to God in prayer ought to be our first response to adversity.
  1. Review Matt 6:5-15 and then consider what should be the purpose and pattern of our prayer?
  2. Is it ok to ask for relief? What if you don't know whether to pray for sustaining grace or immediate deliverance? Consider Rom 8:26, remembering the context from earlier.
5. Pastor David suggested that our second response should be to trust God. What does it mean to trust God amidst adversity after pouring our heart out to him?
  1. Trust that he will bring us relief of the adversity or suffering? Consider 2 Cor 12:5-10, Matt 26:36-42.
  2. Trust that he will be faithful to form us into the image of Christ and make us blameless for the great day of the LORD? Consider Rom 8:28-30; Phil 1:6-11; and 1 Thess 5:23-24.
6. Pastor David concluded that trusting him, we should therefore commit to worship God in times of adversity or suffering. What would worship during adversity or suffering look like for you?
  1. Consider again 2 Cor 6:3-12 (especially 6:10); Job 1:18-22, 2:7-10; Phil 1:20-21; Rom 12:1-2, 9-21; 1 Pet 4:19.

**Sermon Idea:** “Our right response in adversity is complete confidence in God.

**I. Call out to God in response to adversity.** (vv 1-2)

A. David was in a place of severe adversity.

1. His family was a mess.
2. One of his sons, Amnon, had raped his daughter Tamar.
3. His son, Absalom, took vengeance against Amnon and killed him.
4. Absalom was exiled in the wilderness.
5. He returned, only to later, undermine his father, King David.
6. Absalom led coup d'état to takeover his father's kingdom and pursued David to murder him.
7. King David was on the run in Mahanaim fleeing from his son.
8. Polygamy, adultery, murder...
9. David confessed his sins (2 Sam. 12:13)
10. God forgave his sins (2 Sam. 12:13)
11. God promised sins consequences would burden David always. (2 Sam. 12:10-11, 14)

B. David responded to adversity by calling out to God.

1. This was not an isolated incidence that David got it right, but instead it was a pattern for him. (Psalm 3:1-3; 35:1-2; 6:1-3; 32:1-5; 51:1-2; 25:1-5; 34:1)

C. What's your first response when trouble comes? How do you deal with adversity?

D. What are some of the things that keep us from turning quickly to God in prayer in times of adversity?

1. We're not in the habit of praying. (Luke 11:9-10; James 4:2)
2. We're not in the habit of believing. (1 John 5:14-15)
3. We're not in that habit of waiting on God. (Luke 18:1)

E. Why should we call out to God immediately when adversity comes? Because He's attentive to our cries.

**II. Continue to trust God in response to adversity.** (vv 2-7)

A. David's prayer is anchored in God's ability and not his own circumstances.

B. David calls for God in beautiful rich phrases that depict God in His strength & power & glory:

C. David prayed not just out of theology but out of past experience;

D. In times of adversity, as always, but particularly when we're pinched by the difficulties of life we need to be sure we don't misplace our trust and look for hope in the wrong things.

E. What are some of the things we are prone to misplace our trust in adversity?

**III. Commit to revere God in response to adversity.** (v 8)

A. David moves from fear to faith to joy.

B. With a cheerful heart—even in adversity—David praised the Lord.

C. Are you able to praise God when you're in adversity?

D. Why does God allow adversity?

1. Job – his righteousness (Job 1:8-12)
2. David – his sins (2 Sam. 11-12; Psalm 51)
3. Church at Corinth – to bless others (2 Cor. 1:3-7)