

## The Steadfast Man

Jesus in the Psalms

*Psalm 57*

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### I. Jesus in the Psalms (cf. Lk 24:44; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16)

Paul exhorts us, “*Let the word of \_\_\_\_\_ dwell in you richly, speaking to one another in psalms...*” (Col 3:16). When we sing the Psalms to one another, we hear Christ Himself speaking to us.

### II. The Steadfast Man

#### A. The Title

*To the Chief Musician. Set to “Do Not Destroy.” A Michtam of David When He Fled from Saul into the Cave.*

1. Tune: “Do not destroy” (cf. Pss 58, 59, 75; Dt 9:26; 1 Sam 26:9)

David knew that he who would request that God extend \_\_\_\_\_ to him, must likewise extend mercy to others. The name of the tune highlights this twofold reality.

2. Setting: When he fled from Saul into the cave (cf. 1 Sam 24)

David composed the psalm “*when he fled from Saul into a cave.*” It seems most likely that it refers to his time in the cave at En-gedi.

#### B. The Psalm

1. David Confidently Cries for Mercy (1-3b)

<sup>1</sup>*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by.* <sup>2</sup>*I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me.* <sup>3</sup>*He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah*

2. David Praises God’s Mercy and Truth (3c-6)

<sup>3</sup>... *God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.* <sup>4</sup>*My soul is among lions; I lie among the sons of men Who are set on fire, Whose teeth are spears and arrows, And their tongue a sharp sword.* <sup>5</sup>*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth.* <sup>6</sup>*They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed down; They have dug a pit before me; Into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah*

3. David Again Praises God’s Mercy and Truth (7-11)

<sup>7</sup>*My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise.* <sup>8</sup>*Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn.* <sup>9</sup>*I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations.* <sup>10</sup>*For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds.* <sup>11</sup>*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth.*

### III. The Character of the Steadfast Man

Paul regularly summons us to follow our Lord in His steadfastness. So how can we be such men and women? What is the character of the steadfast man?

1 Co 16:13 Watch, **stand** fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Ga 5:1 **Stand** fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Php 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you **stand** fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

Php 4:1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so **stand** fast in the Lord, beloved.

1 Th 3:8 For now we live, if you **stand** fast in the Lord.

2 Th 2:15 Therefore, brethren, **stand** fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

A. Fixes his heart on God's mercy and truth

1. *God's mercy* – His \_\_\_\_\_ shown to those who are in misery or distress.
2. *God's truth* – (i) His \_\_\_\_\_ of what is really happening and (ii) His *promises* to His people.

Jesus sings to us in this psalm and urges us to trust in God's mercy and God's truth. Elsewhere, He warns us (Matt 6:19-21):

<sup>19</sup>"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Psalm 112 sings of the man who sets his trust in God:

<sup>7</sup>He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. <sup>8</sup>His heart is established; He will not be afraid, Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.

- *A fixed heart is not stoic.*
- *A fixed heart is not fatalistic.*

B. Calls upon God to send forth His mercy and truth

One of the earliest Christian prayers is the Greek phrase: *Kyrie, eleison!* – Lord, have \_\_\_\_\_!

C. Praises God for His mercy and truth

David *praises God for His mercy and truth* because he knows that *if the Lord exalts Himself then He will also rescue David*. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is David's \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus knew this as well. On one occasion, Jesus prays, "Father, glorify Thy Name." And the Father responds, "I have both glorified it, and I will glorify it yet again" (Jn 12:28). So how does God *glorify His Name again*? He glorifies His Name by raising Jesus from the dead and seating Him at His right hand. God's *exaltation* was Jesus' *salvation*.

This is our promise as well: the steadfast man or woman, whose heart is fixed in God and who has cried to God for mercy, will praise God, will long for God's exaltation, knowing that God's \_\_\_\_\_ is his or her \_\_\_\_\_.

- Psalm 26:11b - Redeem me and be merciful to me.
- Psalm 30:10 - Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me!
- Psalm 33:22 - Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.
- Psalm 41:4 - LORD, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.
- Psalm 41:10 - But You, O LORD, be merciful to me, and raise me up...
- Psalm 56:1 - Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up...
- Psalm 67:1 - God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us...
- Psalm 86:3 - Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to You all day long.
- Psalm 90:14 - Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!
- Psalm 119:58 - I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word.
- Psalm 119:76 - Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to Your word to Your servant.
- Psalm 119:132 - Look upon me and be merciful to me, As Your custom is toward those who love Your name.

### IV. Conclusion