

This World Is Not My Home

"What Happens Next" Series- Part 07

Share/Connect time: For you, what is the toughest thing about being a Christian?

It's a tough world! If we listen to any form of media, we have been reminded over and over again that we are living in "*unprecedented times*". The year 2020 has been a year that is fraught with national problems, calamities, strong disagreements, riots, and a pandemic. Hurting and suffering abound!

A wise sage once commented on how harsh the world can be:

"The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place and I don't care how tough you are it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard ya hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward." – Rocky Balboa

Discuss the following two questions: 1. Are we really living in "unprecedented" times?

2. What about Rocky's advice? Good or bad? What's your #1 strategy for moving forward?

Today in our text, King David reflects his struggle with the problem of suffering. We will encounter the mixed emotions of a man who is reeling under God's discipline as experienced in illness (39:10), and yet who knows that God is his only hope (39:7). Let's walk with him and discuss what he experienced:

Book: Psalm 39

Psa 39:1 For Jeduthun, the choir director: A psalm of David. I said to myself, "I will watch what I do and not sin in what I say. I will hold my tongue when the ungodly are around me."

Psa 39:2 But as I stood there in silence—not even speaking of good things—the turmoil within me grew worse.

Psa 39:3 The more I thought about it, the hotter I got, igniting a fire of words:

Psa 39:4 "LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered—how fleeting my life is.

Psa 39:5 You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to You; at best, each of us is but a breath." Interlude

Psa 39:6 We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it.

Psa 39:7 And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in You.

Psa 39:8 Rescue me from my rebellion. Do not let fools mock me.

Psa 39:9 I am silent before You; I won't say a word, for my punishment is from You.

Psa 39:10 But please stop striking me! I am exhausted by the blows from Your hand.

Psa 39:11 When You discipline us for our sins, You consume like a moth what is precious to us. Each of us is but a breath. Interlude

Psa 39:12 Hear my prayer, O LORD! Listen to my cries for help! Don't ignore my tears. For I am Your guest—a traveler passing through, as my ancestors were before me.

Psa 39:13 Leave me alone so I can smile again before I am gone and exist no more.

Let's get into the Word:

Looking at Ps. 39:1-2, what was the first action that David took in his time of trouble?

When is it appropriate to "be silent" around ungodly people and when is it the right time to speak up?

What do you think about David's decision not to speak of "good things" (vs. 2)?

(Verse 2-3) David finally speaks, but what was the cause? In what ways does continual silence on your part eventually effect you?

In his spoken words (vs. 4-7) David states some of the realities of life as he sees them. What are these realities and to what extent do you agree or disagree with his pronouncements?

How can such an outlook on life help us to face troublesome times?

Does David take any responsibility for his suffering? How?

Read the last two verses of Psalm 39. What is David's desire? Is there anything in the last stanza of his song that speaks to your emotions and provide strength?

Homework:

Is it possible to think too much about how transient life is? If so, where is the balance point?