



“Praise Him In This Storm”

Psalm 22

Small Group Plan

In his book, *God's Plans For You*, J. I. Packer wrote (pg. 47),

The other day ... as I sat in the hot tub savoring the warmth ... adjusting to the feel of being bubbled over from all angles ... it struck me that the hot tub is the perfect symbol of the modern route to religion. The hot tub experience is sensuous, relaxing, floppy, laid-back: not in any way demanding ... but very, very nice, even to the point of being great fun. Many today want Christianity to be like that and labor to make it so. The ultimate step, of course, would be to clear church auditoriums of seats and install hot tubs in their place; then there would never be any attendance problems.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- In your own words, what is Packer trying to say? Do you agree? Explain.
- What is the worst physical pain you have experienced? How did you manage it?
- If you had to lose either your eyesight, hearing, or sense of touch, which would you choose? Explain.

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— CAUGHT IN THE STORM —

- Read aloud the lyrics of the song, “Praise You in This Storm” by Mark Hall

*I was sure by now, God,
that You would have reached down,
and wiped our tears away,
stepped in and saved the day.
But once again, I say amen,
and it's still raining.
As the thunder rolls,
I barely hear You whisper through the rain,
"I'm with you."*

And as Your mercy falls,
 I raise my hands,
 and praise the God who gives,
 and takes away.
 I remember when, I stumbled in the wind,
 You heard my cry to You
 and raised me up again
 My strength is almost gone,
 how can I carry on,
 if I can't find You.
 And as the thunder rolls,
 I barely hear You whisper through the rain,
 "I'm with you."
 And as Your mercy falls,
 I raise my hands and praise the God who gives,
 and takes away.
 Chorus:
 And I'll praise you in this storm,
 and I will lift my hands,
 for You are who You are,
 no matter where I am.
 And every tear I've cried,
 You hold in your hand.
 You never left my side.
 And though my heart is torn,
 I will praise You in this storm.

- How would you summarize the message of this song?
- Is there a line or phrase from the song that especially resonates with you?
- How would you describe the decision expressed in the chorus?

— SOURCES OF THE STORM —

- **SATANIC ATTACK**
How have you felt Satan's attack?
- **OUR FALLEN WORLD**
Describe how far has our world has fallen.
- **BAD CHOICES**
How can our own foolish choices bring us suffering?
- **GOOD CHOICES**
How can good decisions bring personal suffering?

— PRAISING GOD IN THE STORM —

— Abandoned By God —

Psalm 22:1-5

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? ² O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. ³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. ⁴ In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. ⁵ They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

- As the Psalm anticipates Jesus on the cross, what is he thinking, how is he feeling?
- Why was Jesus “forsaken?”

— Despised By The People —

Psalm 22:6-13

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. ⁷ All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: ⁸ “He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” ⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother’s breast. ¹⁰ From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. ¹¹ Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. ¹² Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. ¹³ Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.

- In his view from the cross, describe what Jesus is seeing.
- Notice the animal analogies (bulls, lions). What do these images mean to Jesus?

— Crucified By The Authorities —

Psalm 22:14-18

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. ¹⁸ They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

- List and reflect on the crucifixion images in these verses.
- Which “authorities” wanted Jesus dead? Why?
- Why didn’t they simply assassinate him — why did they want him killed in this manner, by crucifixion?

— Rescued By God —

Psalm 22:19-21

¹⁹ But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. ²⁰
Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. ²¹
Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

- How can Jesus be so confident in the middle of his storm?
- Why does the “Son of God” need help?
- Think carefully — From what dilemma did God rescue Jesus?

— Praising God In The Storm —

Psalm 22:22-25

²² I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you. ²³
You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! ²⁴ For he has not despised or disdained
the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has
listened to his cry for help. ²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great
assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.

- What does it mean to “declare your name” “in the congregation?”
- Imagine the content of Jesus’ praise — what does he say about God?

— Expanding The Worship —

Psalm 22:26-31

²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him —
may your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn
to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸ for
dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the rich of the
earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him —
those who cannot keep themselves alive. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future
generations will be told about the Lord. ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness to
a people yet unborn — for he has done it.

- How has the message of God’s rescue spread all over the earth?
- What has excited you the most as you have watched it spread?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What has been your most difficult storm?
- Was there a time in the storm when you could hear God whispering through the rain, “I’m with you?” Describe it.
- Close by asking God to fill our worship with His presence and power.