

A Place for Hope

Psalm 17

- **Verse 1 – Heart Check** - I don't have a fake motivation
- **Verse 2 – Appeal for Help**
 - Attend to my cry and hear me
 - Judge this situation fairly (similar to what Job cried out)
- **Verses 3–4 – Heart Check**
 - My heart is shown by my works – I can say all day, but what do I do?
 - I've kept from the “wrong way”
 - Think: “Every man declares his goodness, but the Lord judges the heart”
 - Is David righteous because of his own deeds or something else?
 - Compare to the wicked in v. 10 – they are wicked because they DO wickedly, but more because of their heart attitude.
 - David's righteousness is not because he DOES righteous deeds, but because of the God who he has covenanted with (imputed righteousness).

Cross-references to consider:

- How does Psalm 32:1–2 continue this idea?
- What about Romans 4:8?
- See Proverbs 21:4, Isaiah 64:6 for an analysis of how “good” our “good deeds” are.

- **Verses 5–6 – Appeal for Security**
 - Secure my path so I don't fall (“lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil”) (v. 5)
 - Listen to me (“perk up your ears”) (v. 6)
- **Verse 7a – Appeal for Kindness** - Show me your kindness (v. 7)
- **Verse 7b – Appeal for Stability** - Grab my hand so I don't fall (v. 7) – and use your strong hand!
- **Verses 8–10 – Appeal for Protection**
 - Protect me like I'm valuable (v. 8)
 - Protect me like I'm a little bird in danger of being snatched (v. 8)
 - Enemies are coming (v. 9)
 - Enemies have surrounded me (v. 9)
 - Enemies are harming me (v. 9)

Bird imagery questions:

- How does Jesus use bird-like imagery in Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34?
- What is required for God to protect us like a bird protects her young?
- See other verses for the same imagery: Deuteronomy 32:11; Psalm 91:4; Psalm 36:7 Protect me like I'm one of your own! (v. 10) (“because they're not!”)

- **Verses 10–12 – Heart Check of My Enemies**
 - They're fat on their own gluttony (v. 10a) – self-centered; self-indulgent
 - They're proud (v. 10b) – not submitted to God or doing anything His way
 - They're stalking me
 - They're watching my steps (v. 11b)
 - They're like a hunting lion waiting to ambush me (v. 12)
- **Verses 13–14 – Appeal for Action** - Separate the godly and the wicked (vv. 13–14)
- **Verse 15 – Statement of Faith**
 - I will be righteous and be like you (v. 15)
 - There will be a day when I am sinlessly glorified, but as Psalm 22 (the Messianic prophecy) talks, there is a vindication in God for doing it His way and in His timing.

Future hope cross-references:

- 1 John 3:2 bears out a similar idea. How?
- Daniel 12:2 does as well. How?

Key Themes to Discuss / Reflect On

- True righteousness: imputed or earned - what verses would you go to to prove your case?
- Heart vs. actions – what God truly sees
- God as protector (wings, hand, refuge) - in what ways does God protect us? Do we always see it?
- The contrast between the godly and the wicked - what are some of the contrasts?
- Ultimate satisfaction: seeing God's face (v. 15) - why do we struggle finding out ultimate satisfaction in him?
- Hope of glorification and vindication - why is this so important? Why is it a challenge to wait for His vindication?