

January 4, 2015

“When it seems like God is Absent”

Psalm 25:16-21

Intro—What, when, where, who

- Difficult, demoralizing

Absent:

- Silence, suffering, separation, stagnation, sin—no change, corruption, done wrong

1. Seek the Father (vs. 16-18)

David's condition:

A) By himself “Desolate”

- Desolate—lonely
- Afflicted—depressed (in mind or circumstance)
- Depressed—Pastor (door), Austin (dark)

B) Burdened “Enlarged”

- Troubles—tightness (pressure)
- Overwhelmed, out of control
- Problems—multiple, multiplying

C) Bewildered “My Pain”

- Affliction—depression, i.e. misery
- Pain—toil
- Tormenting, tiring/ drained, drying up

Story: Broken hand—grow back even stronger

2. Stay Focused (vs. 19)

- **Silence, stop/ Question, Quit**

Attacks can be:

A) Intimidating “Many”

- Number, notion
- Outnumbered, outmanned
- Bullied, beat up

B) Intense “Hate me”

- Threatened, time is up
- Demise, destruction, death
- Personal, painful, public (94:3)

3. Stand Firm 20-21

Hold your ground/ don't back down—attitude:

- A)** Turn to God “Keep/ deliver”
- Help, hope
 - Rescue, relieve
 - Pavilion (27:5)—host, bound to protect
 - Rock (28:1), Refuge (46:1), Fortress (71:3)
- B)** Trust in God “trust”
- Trust—flee for protection, to confide in
 - Protection, provision, pavilion (27:5)
 - Dependable (past), defense (promises)
 - Deut 32:10, Psalm 61:2, 73:26, 94:19, 139:17-18, II Cor. 2:14

How else?:

- C)** Stay Courageous “Ashamed”
- Bold, brave, bend (ashamed)
 - Honor—fold, fight
 - Leaders—1-10 retire from ministry
 - Psalm 27:3, 16:8
- D)** Stay Clean “Forgive/ integrity”
- Honest, healthy
 - Acknowledge—I John 1:8
 - Purify, purity (innocence, integrity)
- E)** Stay Calm “I will wait”
- Persistent, persevere, patience
 - Resilient, remain faithful, fail
 - Psalm 27:14