Camping With Jesus

Psalm 34 (text. v. 7—*The angel of the LORD* **encampeth** *round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*)

THE SUPERSCRIPTION of this Psalm tells us it was written by David when He faked like he was crazy before Abimelech / Achish in Gath (cf. 1 Sam. 21:10 - 22:1).

David killed the 10½ foot giant Philistine Goliath, who was from Gath. He terrorized Israel for 40 days, roaring out his challenges and cursing and deriding the living God. David picks up a few stones and before the Philistines could shout "Long live Dagon!" Goliath was down with a stone in his forehead and David cut off his head with his own sword.

King Saul was instantly jealous of David. He plotted against David made numerous attempts on his life. He constantly pursued David all over the country.

After being continually hounded by Saul, David began to be weary of the life of a fugitive. Finally, David's faith wavered. He made a decision to go where Saul would never reach him—He would go down to Gath and seek asylum with Achish, one of the Philistine lords (read 1 Sam. 21:10-15).

At Gath David is recognized as the one who killed their home town hero, Goliath. Too late David realized his mistake: "*David… was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.*" So he faked like he was crazy, and his performance was so grotesque and revolting that the disgusted Achish had him released and driven out of the land.

Once safely back in Israel David went to the cave of Adullam in the hill country of Judea (1 Sam. 22:1). There he wrote this Psalm as he reflected on his experience in Gath— David was not proud of what he had done and recognized that in reality his security was in God's hands. David wanted his experience and the lesson he had learned, to be remembered.

Part one of Psalm 34 is a **song**—Part two is a **sermon**. He gathered his men around him and taught them to learn by his example.

I.   **David's TESTIMONY of praise** (vs. 1-10).

     A.   His **RESOLVE** to praise (vs. 1-3). **Five-fold attributes of praise:**

1. BLESS Him (v. 1)—Make God happy by our conduct. Good times… bad times, *"I WILL bless the Lord AT ALL TIMES."*

2. PRAISE Him verbally with our mouths (v. 1—*"…his praise shall **continually** be IN MY MOUTH"*)

3. BOAST of Him (v. 2)—Brag about what God does. David didn't boast about his own cleverness or skill—he boasted about the Lord, who He is and what He does.

4. MAGNIFY Him (v. 3)—Enlarge His glory and increase His size in the sight of the heathen.
➡️**He invites others to join him in praise**. A choir singing is stronger than a soloist singing. The more singing, the better.

5. EXALT Him (v. 3)—Raise Him up as high as we can.

   Verse 3 is the greatest "marriage proposal" that a young man could give to a Christian young lady—*"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together."*

B. His **REASON** to praise (vs. 4-7).

1. God SAVES (vs. 4-6). A man must recognize **his need** before he will cry unto the Lord for salvation

2. God KEEPS (vs. 7). The Angel of the Lord is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ (Josh. 5:13-15).

3. God SATISFIES (vs. 8-10). He invites others to taste and trust God's provision (vs. 8-10). "If you don't believe me, taste for yourself and see that the Lord is good."

II.   David's TEACHING from experience (vs. 11-22).

➡️David is now back with his men an wants them to learn the lessons God has taught him by his experience at Gath. David failed to fear the Lord and feared man instead (v. 11 cf. Prov. 29:25). This was what got him into trouble.

A. His APPEAL (vs. 11-12). He appeals to man's desire to live a good and full life (v. 12). What man is there that doesn't want to live to a ripe old age want "the good life" with all its rewards?

B. His ADMONITION (vs. 13-14). The following things must be practiced if a person is to live a good and long life:

1. **Watch Your Words** (34:13). David made the mistake of resorting to guile as a means of protection in Gath, instead of trusting God.

2. **Watch Your Walk** (34:14).

C. His APPLICATION (vs. 15-19). **The Lord is watching you**!

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