



Studies in the Psalms

PSALM 20

INTERRUPTIONS

QUICK REVIEW

LESSON ONE

- » God does not look at the clock as much as he looks at our character

LESSON TWO

- » God uses interruptions to keep us humble

LESSON THREE

- » Interruptions remind me that I am not in control of my life.

LESSON FOUR

- » Interruptions make life interesting

ABOUT THIS PSALM

Psalms 20 could have been Ancient Israel's National Anthem. David sang this Psalm, and prayed this psalm as a prayer, as well as praised His God through its lyrics. It is quite probable that this Psalm would have been sung as a challenge to the hearts of the people at times of war. Even to this day we all go through times of war-like challenges. Perhaps few of us actually face the battlefield of an actual army at war, but we do all face daily challenges in our personal lives. One of the greatest challenges we often face is how to get everything done that needs to be done. Interruptions from just about every direction one can think of can often be our greatest challenges today.

AUTHOR

We are informed in the title that the author of Psalm number 20 is David, the son of Jesse from Bethlehem. The title also tells us that David recommended this psalm to the chief musician for use in temple worship.

THEME

The theme of Psalm 20 is that God truly does watch over our lives. God helps us in our times of distress; He sends us help from above. He sees our sacrifices we face along the way. He understands the desires of our hearts and wants us to succeed. God sees our world however different than sometimes even we do. It seems to me that there are four areas we should take under consideration:

- » ONE: while we are often concerned about accomplishing things, God is more concerned about our character.
- » TWO: Often times the things that we struggle with are allowed to happen because the Lord uses these challenges to show us our dire need of Him in our lives. We may tend to think we can handle everything ourselves, but the truth is we really do need Him.
- » THREE: We need to come to understand that we are not the ones who are really in control of our lives, but that rather God is. He watches over us and often takes care of a lot of things that we aren't even aware of.
- » FOUR: We need to learn to put our trust in God. We often can be a hero worshipping people. We don't need Batman, Super-Man, or any of this world's heroes like we need our Creator. He loves us and wants to be in our midst. And he wants for us to watch as He shows us how to overcome our obstacles in life.

Most often in life, it is our experiences that develop us into the person that we eventually become. It is also where we can obtain our deepest knowledge.



PERSONAL APPLICATIONS//PSALM 20

INTERRUPTIONS

PSALM 20:1-2: “May the LORD answer you when you are in distress, may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. May He send you help from the Sanctuary and grant you support from Zion.”

QUESTIONS

In times of distress we are often looking on how things appear, but what does God want us to look at? How can having Godly priorities keep great peace in your life? Do you agree that a good priority system is putting God first, our family second, and thereafter choosing the things that really do matter the most. What kinds of things can you do to keep your priorities in order?

PSALM 20:3-4: “May He remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings. Selah May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.”

QUESTIONS

What does the Bible mean when it says, “The steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord.”? What does the Bible mean when it says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.”?

PSALM 20:5-6: “We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests. Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He answers him from His holy heaven with His saving right hand.”

QUESTIONS

Have you ever been through a situation that seemed like a huge mess, but there was a turning point and you realized that God had already put a plan in motion that carried you through?

PSALM 20:7-9: “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm. O LORD, save the King! Answer us when we call.”

QUESTIONS

Have a discussion about how when we go through a period of ease, we often become less prayerful and neglect reaching out to God. Then discuss how challenges often bring us back to our intimate relationship with Him.

Matthew 6:33: “If we will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness ... all other things will be added to us.”

Psalms 37:23-24: “If the LORD delights in a man’s way, He makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with His hand. I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children out begging bread.”

II Chronicles 16:9: “For the eyes of the LORD move back and forth throughout the whole earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”