

BELPRES CHURCH

Sermon Title: Angry Prayers

Opening Question: Looking back to last week's sermon and scripture... How did you live differently or practice what we talked about in your life this week? What did you do and how did it go?

This week's scripture:

Psalm 69

Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.

² I sink in the miry depths,
where there is no foothold.

I have come into the deep waters;
the floods engulf me.

³ I am worn out calling for help;
my throat is parched.

My eyes fail,
looking for my God.

⁴ Those who hate me without reason
outnumber the hairs of my head;
many are my enemies without cause,
those who seek to destroy me.

I am forced to restore
what I did not steal.

⁵ You, God, know my folly;
my guilt is not hidden from you.

⁶ Lord, the LORD Almighty,
may those who hope in you
not be disgraced because of me;

God of Israel,
may those who seek you
not be put to shame because of me.

- ⁷ For I endure scorn for your sake,
and shame covers my face.
- ⁸ I am a foreigner to my own family,
a stranger to my own mother's children;
- ⁹ for zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.
- ¹⁰ When I weep and fast,
I must endure scorn;
- ¹¹ when I put on sackcloth,
people make sport of me.
- ¹² Those who sit at the gate mock me,
and I am the song of the drunkards.
- ¹³ But I pray to you, LORD,
in the time of your favor;
in your great love, O God,
answer me with your sure salvation.
- ¹⁴ Rescue me from the mire,
do not let me sink;
deliver me from those who hate me,
from the deep waters.
- ¹⁵ Do not let the floodwaters engulf me
or the depths swallow me up
or the pit close its mouth over me.
- ¹⁶ Answer me, LORD, out of the goodness of your love;
in your great mercy turn to me.
- ¹⁷ Do not hide your face from your servant;
answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.
- ¹⁸ Come near and rescue me;
deliver me because of my foes.
- ¹⁹ You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed;
all my enemies are before you.
- ²⁰ Scorn has broken my heart
and has left me helpless;
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I found none.
- ²¹ They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst.
- ²² May the table set before them become a snare;
may it become retribution and[Ⓛ] a trap.
- ²³ May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see,

and their backs be bent forever.
24 Pour out your wrath on them;
let your fierce anger overtake them.
25 May their place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in their tents.
26 For they persecute those you wound
and talk about the pain of those you hurt.
27 Charge them with crime upon crime;
do not let them share in your salvation.
28 May they be blotted out of the book of life
and not be listed with the righteous.
29 But as for me, afflicted and in pain—
may your salvation, God, protect me.
30 I will praise God's name in song
and glorify him with thanksgiving.
31 This will please the LORD more than an ox,
more than a bull with its horns and hooves.
32 The poor will see and be glad—
you who seek God, may your hearts live!
33 The LORD hears the needy
and does not despise his captive people.
34 Let heaven and earth praise him,
the seas and all that move in them,
35 for God will save Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah.
Then people will settle there and possess it;
36 the children of his servants will inherit it,
and those who love his name will dwell there.

Scripture Reflection Questions: Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:

- What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection Questions: Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:

- In some ways verse 29 serves as a turning point in this Psalm. How so? From the context what must have happened to David to turn him from cursing his enemies to thanking God?

- Jesus doesn't pray the way David does here. Jesus prayed that God would forgive the people who crucified him. In what ways are you like David? In what ways are you like Jesus?
- How is this Psalm a guide for how we should pray? How is it NOT a guide for how we should pray?

Closing Question and Application: Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week? Who might you share this with?

Closing group prayer: Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.