



DATE: 27 October 2024 AM
TEXT: **Psalm 11**
TITLE: **Kinesis**
noun: movement as
a reaction to stimuli

...How say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?
For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their
arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the
upright in heart. If the foundations be destroyed,
what can the righteous do?

Psalm 11:1-3

INTRODUCTION

- in 64 AD, the Great Fire of Rome engulfed The Eternal City and destroyed more than 70% of it

Emperor Nero was initially blamed for the fire, but he managed to turn attention to the Christians in the empire and blamed them for the destruction

thus began the first official persecution on the church in the Roman Empire

Nero's Torches, a painting in Poland, illustrates how Christians were dipped in tar, impaled on poles, and lit on fire to serve as torches in Nero's gardens

- in our modern society, we have begun to see similar sentiments against Christians

the Colorado baker sued for refusing to bake a wedding cake for same sex weddings

the Oregon mother rejected from adopting foster children because she was against gender affirmation

the Pennsylvania man who was arrested for reading Bible verses out loud at a gay pride parade

- in **Psalm 11**, we find a situation where David was fearful and advised by those around him to flee
 - perhaps David was running from Saul?
 - maybe during the time of Absalom's rebellion?
- in **verse 3**, we find a question for every Christian to answer in our modern time:

If the foundations be destroyed,
what can the righteous do?

**foundations = the established
order of things**

destroyed = to pull down

Psalm 82:5 Asaph

They know not, neither will they understand;
they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of
the earth are out of course.

- from a biblical perspective, it is not difficult to see how the foundations are being pulled down and a humanistic worldview is taking its place
 - so many people are talking about **CHANGE**, yet very few know what change they want or how that change should be accomplished
- in the coming weeks, we are going to attempt to answer the question:

What Can The Righteous Do?

- this morning, by way of introduction, we look at David's situation and get a feel for our own reality

1. FEARFUL ADVICE verses 1-3

...How say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart. If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Proverbs 24:6 tells us there is safety in a multitude of counsellors

but those counsellors must be godly and willing to lead us to God's Word

that was not the case in David's situation...those advising him to flee were fearful and untrained in God's ways

Flee as a bird to your mountain

they wanted him to run and hide, an idea David had at one time in his life:

Psalm 55:6-7

And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah.

...the wicked bend their bow...privily shoot

his advisors were creating fear in things they could not see in order to get David to react

in uncertain times, the loudest voices *seem* to speak the truth

**In the valley of the blind,
the one-eyed man is king**

Job 15:17 Eliphaz

I will shew thee, hear me; and that which I have seen I will declare;

Psalm 121:1

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

there was no help in the hills...temples to false gods had been constructed there and the popular opinion of the day was to seek counsel there

verse 2 My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

the unfortunate and usual response to all of these voices, then and now, is either to:

Remain Oblivious

Become Fearful

Trust in Uncertain Trumpets

1 Corinthians 14:8

For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

David was unwilling to take the advice of those who did not know His God; rather, he gave them a...

2. FAITHFUL ANSWER **verse 1a**

In the LORD put I my trust...

right there at the beginning, so we would not miss it, David gave his answer to the prevailing situation

in the OT, the word *trust* is the equivalent of our NT word *faith*

it is found **152x** in the Old Testament

the **VERB** carries several subtle meanings:

= **to take refuge**

Ruth 2:12

The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

= **to lean on**

Psalm 56:3

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

= **to roll on**

Psalm 37:5

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

= **to stay upon**

1 Chronicles 5:20b

...for they cried to God in the battle, and he was entreated of them; because they put their trust in him.

David was not afraid because his trust was placed in God...not men, not circumstances, etc.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight...

3. **FACTUAL ACCOUNT** verses 4-7

The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

David didn't just offer some religious platitude he had heard repeated...

his trust in the LORD was founded upon the facts he had **EXPERIENCED** **Psalm 34:8**

the Lord is in his Holy Temple...David would go on to draw up the blueprints for the Temple to be built later by Solomon

the Lord's throne is in Heaven...

Isaiah 66:1 tells us this

Matthew 5:34 Jesus confirmed it

His eyes behold...His eyelids try

God sees and knows everything...in fact, the psalm implies poetically that God squints so as not to miss any details

try = to test for fitness

Psalm 66:7

He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

Jeremiah 16:17

For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.

there are things God hates and refuses to have part with them **Proverbs 6:16-19**

David understood that choices made by man bring its own consequences

God will have the last word

Romans 1:21-22

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...

verse 24

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

verse 26

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

verse 28

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

all too often, the worst thing God could do is leave us to our own devices and force us to deal with the consequences of our actions

but ultimately, for the righteous, there is one great hope: his countenance doth behold the upright.

and we will see His face, too

1 John 3:2 Revelation 22:4