

As CLOSE as a SHADOW ~ Psalm 57

→ Scripture Reading Psalm 57:1-5

INTRODUCTION

I once took the Duchess to tea - It was just as I thought it would be
Her Rumbblings Abdominal - were simply phenomenal
And everyone thought it was me

The trouble with a kitten is that... ..it eventually becomes a cat

Two Realities face David

- the Sovereign Power of God
- the Deadly Determination of his Enemy

Psalm 57

*For the director of music. (To the tune of) Do Not Destroy. Of David. A miktam.
When he had fled from Saul into the cave.*

HUMBLE Request for MERCY ~ Psalm 57:1-5

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in You my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the disaster has passed. ² I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills His purpose for me. ³ He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me; *Selah* God sends His love and His faithfulness. ⁴ I am in the midst of lions; I lie among ravenous beasts - men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords. ⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth.

IMPLICATIONS

→ Are we Seeking REFUGE in God's SHADOW

¹...I take refuge in You. I will seek **REFUGE** in the **SHADOW** of Your wings until danger passes. (HCS)

Psalm 73:28 (NLT) But as for me, how GOOD it is to be **NEAR God!** I have **made the Sovereign LORD** my SHELTER...

Close to You Lord is where I want to be -
You are ALL I ever hoped for ALL I ever dreamed
Close to You Lord come and fill me with Your Fire -
You know it's my desire to be **close to You**

→ God WILL Fulfill HIS PLANS for me

² I cry out to **God MOST HIGH**, to God who **WILL fulfill His PURPOSE** for me. (NLT)

Confident and STEADFAST Heart ~ Psalm 57:6-11

Lament is a prayer IN midst of Pain or Hardship that leads us back to Confidence and Trust IN God. *Vroegop*

⁶ They spread a net for my feet - I was bowed down in distress. They dug a pit in my path - but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*

Deut. 32:35 (NIV) It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them.

⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. ⁸ Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. ⁹ I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of You among the peoples. ¹⁰ For great is Your love, reaching to the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. ¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

IMPLICATIONS

→ Focusing on God NOT his Enemies

⁶ They prepared a net for my steps; I was despondent. They dug a pit ahead of me, but THEY FELL INTO IT. *Selah* (HCS)

→ Focusing on God in our Pain can Open the Door for PRAISE

⁷ My heart is steadfast ...I will sing...

⁸ ...I will awaken the dawn

⁹ I will praise You, O Lord... ...I will sing of You...

¹⁰ **For GREAT is Your love**, reaching to the heavens; **Your FAITHFULNESS** reaches to the skies.

Though You slay me - Yet I will praise You
Though You take from me - I will bless Your name
Though You ruin me - Still I will worship
Sing a song to the ONE who's ALL I need

My heart and flesh may fail - The earth below give way
But with my eyes, with my eyes I'll see the Lord
Lifted high on that day - Behold, the Lamb that was slain
And I'll know every tear was worth it all

TAKE AWAY ??

→ May we LIVE with the GLORY of God as our FOCUS

¹¹ Be EXALTED, O God, above the highest heavens. May Your GLORY shine over all the earth. (NLT)

Better to be IN the will of God in a cave than out of His will in a king's palace. *Wiersbe*

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV) So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, DO IT ALL for the glory of God.

We're commanded to do everything to the **glory of God**, and if EVERYTHING includes **hiding in caves**, then may the Lord be magnified. The elements of prayer, praise, and a desire for God to be magnified - **will transform any cave** into a Holy place - to the glory of God. *Wiersbe*

Psalm 147:11 (NLT) ... the LORD's delight is in those who fear Him, those who put their HOPE in His unfailing love.

My soul is among lions. How came I there? If for God's sake, then I may remember the lions are chained they can do me NO harm. If they DO harm me it is BY God's Hand - I will Trust Him my Heart is Steadfast. *Spurgeon*