

15. Why do you think when it came to it that David was very free in forgiving those who rebelled against him and mourned deeply, to the annoyance of others, when Absalom was killed.

Pray

Pray for those struggling with depression and anxiety that they would be able to overcome spiritual causes and receive help for medical and emotional causes.

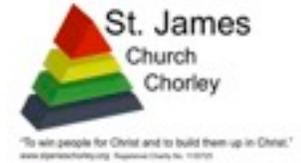
Pray for our service at St James' school on 24th June (11am), and that people would join us for the service, picnic and games. Pray for all of us at the service and for the children during school worship this half term thinking about hope and trust.

Absalom plotted and then rebelled against his father. Pray for families where jealousy and such things can lead to deep problems and those situations you know where there is hurt and division. (It is hard to find a family where there are not some issues under the surface and often very much on the surface as with David.)

*David Phillips,
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The Psalms

Psalm 3 : The Dark Hour



We looked at Psalm 2 in Jan 2016 so we are going on to Psalm 3. We are told when this was written and we looked at the background and briefly at it in our studies on the Life of David two years ago.

Read 2 Samuel 15.1-14

1. When Absalom rose up against his father David, why do you think it was that David fled, despite holding the capital?

2. David would go on to discover that Absalom had less support and he had more than he imagined. In what sort of situations can we find ourselves imagining things are much worse than they really are? Do you think there is a reason for this?

Read Psalm 3

The problem v1-2

3. We don't know precisely when David when wrote this Psalm but presumably before the tide began to turn. What do these two verses show about the depth of the problem he felt?

4. Why do you think it was important to David to mention the accusation against him in the second half of verse 2?

5. Notice that in this Psalm only two verses are taken up with the problem. Having voiced it his focus shifted. Why do we sometimes find we get consumed by our problems in our thinking and in our prayers (as we see in other Psalms)?

Read 2 Samuel 15.32-34

6. Despite the fact David had run away what two reasons did he give for sending Hushai back to Jerusalem? What does this suggest about whether David had really given up?

David's faith v3-4

7. How do these two verses and the rest of the Psalm show David's faith despite his apparent readiness to run away from trouble?

8. If you had been in David's position do you think prayer would have been high up the agenda? Why do we sometimes neglect to pray when troubles come?

9. We are not told why David said here that God had answered him (v4), but what do you think he meant?

A good sleep v5-6

10. What had David feared might happen in 2 Sam 15.14? What then is the significance that a night had passed without incident? What does He attribute this to?

11. What happens to your sleep when you are anxious about things? Why is this?

12. Do you find that prayer helps in such in such situations?

13. What do both these two verses suggest about David's sleep at this anxious time?

Arise, O Lord v7-8

14. The second half of verse 7 might seem a wrong thing to be praying. But, why was it better for David to pray for what asked rather than do it himself?