

SERIES: 'NEVER HEARD THAT' - 8/18/24 (#4) PASTOR LEE

- Pastor Lee 'takes us on a journey' -a 1000 years before before Jesus' birth....Israel....in the desert...walking....a fire....some sheep....a manbeautiful sounds of music from stringed instrument....he's transfixed on the evening sky and contemplating/, singing to his great God.
- DAVID...shepherd..son of Jesse...doing his job...protecting the flock...filling his solitary time in his observing/wonderment of creation and in awe of his God...to whom he mediated/prayed. A unique life, unimaginable to us, that served to shape the very essence of who he was.
- Who knew....that someday those very songs he sung would ultimately wind up in our Holy Bible, only to be read, studied by us today- -known as the Book of Psalms?!!

- Later, we also see Saul, first King of Israel, whose disobedience to God caused him constant torment by a dark spirit. His assistants suggest bringing this young man, DAVID, out of the wilderness into his Court to play/sing his mesmerizing, God-inspired, prayerful, beautiful music, thus calming the King. This exactly happened.

- Then everything unexpectedly changes...DAVID hears that Israelites and Philistines begin to war....confronted by a fearless, God-taunting giant named Goliath...fear grows that Israel can't win the battle....as they melt in terror, DAVID, the most unlikely of people (shepherd, musician, untrained in warfare) steps forward, calmly and confidently.
- DAVID says: ' I've struck down lions and bears; this is no different....the Lord delivered me from the lion and the bear and He will do the exact same thing to this Philistine.'
- With a sling shot, he kills Goliath. Saul becomes fearful and paranoid of David. Even while David resisted opportunities to do so, with an avalanche of support/popularity...and with God's Will and blessings, , he becomes King of all Israel. Revered by his people, DAVID, as an expression of his love of the Lord, begins to plan the building of the Temple, which according to God's Will, would, ultimately, be completed by his son, Solomon.

- Then, in the midst of what appears to be an emerging new 'golden era, DAVID SINS....affair with Bathsheba...and then causing the death of her husband...effects of these choices were profound and historical.
- Nathan, the prophet, confronts him....David repents and fervently prays that the Holy Spirit would stay with him. Nathan tells him that, because of his sins and recognizing that they have consequences, he and his family would suffer pains going forward. "SIN SPLASHES!!!"

- # 3 son, Absalom, by his order, has his half-brother Amnon (who had raped his sister, Tamar) killed....then he flees. He builds support and seeks to upend/kill King DAVID, taking over the throne. Thus, history reads itself as David, who previously had to run away from Saul, again is forced to run away from a son he had loved...Absalom.
- Thus, the effects of David's sins just cascade as Nathan prophesied. This same DAVID...once a shepherd boy singing songs/psalms ('Songbook of Israel), now sits down and writes Psalm 55....in which he expresses intense pain...in a controversial, potentially problematic, even 'un-Christian-like way. Pastor Lee foot-notes: hence, the reason we place this Message in the 'Never Heard That' Series. This Psalm represents a window into David's pain.....his unadulterated fears, pains and frustrations.
- Psalm 55, then, is about raw and personal human experience to which we ALL relate. The word, "heart" is mentioned more than 100 times in Bible...as we might assume otherwise, Scripture does NOT suppress feelings but put them at a forefront as we work thru our pain.
- Feelings are 'tools'...a door-way to working thru our own pain. Requisite to this, we need to make a decision..that is, STAY IN OUR PAIN- -OR- - LOOK TO A "BIG GOD" as does David.

Psalm 55- Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy! (2) Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan, (3) because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they drop trouble on me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me. (4) My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen on me. (5) Fear and trembling come upon me and horror overwhelms me. (6) And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest; (7) yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; Selah. (8) I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest." (9) Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues; for I see violence and strife in the city. (10) Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it; (11) ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace. (12) for it is not an enemy who taunts me- -then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me- -then I could hide from him. (13) But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. (14) We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng. (15) let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart. (16) but I call to God, and the Lord will save me. (17) Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and He hears my voice. (18) He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me. (19) God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, Selah because they do not change and do not fear God. (20) My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant. (21) his speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. (22) Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. (23) But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

- V-3....have you ever been at that moment....at your very edge?!!!
- V-4-8 ...DAVID, describing his relentless pain...one son is dead; another son wants him dead... separation from God!wanting to escape from all this....yearning for a more peaceful past.

- V-9-12 David lashing out at the sources of his pain (not very Godly- -just like us)
- V 13-15...Laments that his tormentors are his 'own'... (eg. his son) and wishes them much ill.(hell!)
- V-16-19...HE CALLS TO HIS BIG GOD! And does so with supreme confidence.
- V-20-22...David, recalling-with anguish... the battle in his heart... declares to himself and all of us: ...'cast your burden on the LORD and He will sustain you...I will trust in You !'

LIKE DAVID, TRUST IN OUR BIG GOD!!!