

A Troubled Soul's Impassioned Plea**1. For Deliverance****2. For Forgiveness****3. For Guidance***A Troubled Soul*

- Hear pls this Wrđ/Lrd, Ps 25. Dvd wrtr; sounds to me like he: trbld soul. Sounds distrssd, like sm brdn is wghng hvly on hrt/mind. Grief afflicts; anxty tormnts; he's in mental/sprtl anghs. **Vs. 16-18** – trbld soul. Qstn is: can you relate? Does sm brdn wgh hvly on your hrt/mind; afflctd by grief, tormntd by anxty; you a trbld soul? And if prhps not at this prtclr mmnt in your life, have you walkd dwn that road before? Are you all too famlr w/the mental/sprtl anghs that plagues the soul when sin, stress, hrtach, disastr, and dth shake you/core? I bet you know, in own private way, what it's like have a trbld soul.
- So what do? What Dvd do? Give up hope; wallow in self-pity; lash out in anger at Lord & wrld. No, Dvd cried out to Lord w/gut-wrenching emotion; raised hvnwrđ an impssnd plea to the only God who could provide any help. And that impssnd plea of that trbld soul is Ps 25. Just listen to this string/verbs, this hrtfelt begging: **“show me; teach; guide; remem; forgive; turn to; be gracious to; relieve; free; look on; guard; rescue; deliver me”** – please, Lord, help me! Ps 25 is a trbld soul's impssnd plea.
- We don't know exctly what moved Dvd to write these wrds, what crcmstncs in his life prompted this impssnd plea. But that's okay; makes it more relatable and helps us make these wrds our wrds, as we raise hvnwrđ our trbld souls' impssnd plea, for delvrnc, for frgvnss, and for guidnc.

An Impassioned Plea for Deliverance

- Dvd pleaded for delvrnc when **vs. 2b; 19**. Dvd had enemies! Goliath tried kill him; Saul tried kill; Saul's soldiers tried kill; Dvd's son's poltcl party tried oust him fr pwr; and Dvd & his soldiers waged war on practcly ev ntn srndng Isrl. So yeah, had enemies! You have enemies? Are ppl trying kill you? Proibly not. But do you have ppl who hate you, dislike, disrespect, make fun of, talk trash re, want nthng do w/? Dvd: **vs. 16**; ever feel same way? Do your frnds despise, forsake you; are you cumbrd w/load/care (CW 721)? They say: sticks/stones break bones, but wrds nvr hurt me. Well, Dvd fought w/swords not sticks; and was pretty good w/stones too. But we all know: wrds of our enemies may not break our bones but can certainly break our hrt. When your hrt is trbld by the hurtful, hateful, cruel unkindness of ppl arnd you, and you feel sting of their words or loneliness of their rejctn, then raise up to Lord your trbld soul's impssnd plea for delvrnc.

An Impassioned Plea for Forgiveness

- Dvd pleaded also for frgvnss. **Vs. 18, 11**. Iniqty: more than just synonym/sin. Wrđ iniqty implies smthng twstd/crooked/pervrse – today mght say: really messd up, sick/twstd. For all Dvd's noble, godly, man-after-Lrd's-own-hrt chrctr traits, Dvd also did sm pretty sick/twstd/messd up thngs. Pretty messd up: secretly watch woman takng bath, then force her into room to rape her, while husbnd fighting in your army. Pretty sick/twstd: command your soldiers abandon that husbnd on front lines, so that dies, so that you can take his wife, who's now carrying your child. Dvd wasn't just little naughty; that's pervrse, that's iniqty – which adds little color to words **vs. 11**. Dvd makes impssnd plea for frgvnss.
- Listen what says here (and as I read this, ask self how these wrds apply your past): **vs. 6-7**. Here's very persnl qstn: do you remem sins your yth & your rebellious ways? Do you remem doing/saying/watchng/planning/thnkng thngs that you're ashmd of, that you rightly shld be ashmd of? When we ask God for frgvnss, we're asking him to adjust his memory, so that he no longer remems our sins but instd remems his mercy/love for us. But God: no dummy! He's omniscient, knws all thngs; dsn't just forget; knws exctly what we've done. And yet when Lord forgvs, he chooses forget; makes decision to not remem. Think of most pwrfl exmpls/frgvnss in Bible: Josph forgvng bros who sold/slavery; J coughng out from cross, “Fr, forgv them” re soldiers who were torturing him; prbl of master who forgvs enormous debt of servant; prbl of father who forgvs wayward/prodigal son; and, of course, Lord's Pr: forgive trspsss/sins, as we... In two wks fr today, the sermon on Ps 130 will explore what means that God does not keep

record/sins; here we learn: don't even keep record in memory. **Vs. 6-7.** So for all the sins that still linger in your memory & trouble your soul, raise to Lord your impassioned plea for forgiveness, and know that whatever wrongs you may still remember, your Lord has chosen to and promised to forget them.

An Impassioned Plea for Guidance

- Finally, raise to Lord your troubled soul's impassioned plea for guidance. David did here in Ps 25: **vs. 4-5a.** Lord, I know you love me, which is why I love you. I desire to follow your will; I want to do things you want me to do. I don't want just to come out of habit or give lip-service to the Bible without actually putting/practicing in my life. I want to live the new life you've given me, because you said, **"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching" (Jn 14:23);** and I do love you, so I want to walk in your ways. So, **vs. 4-5a.** Make me a disciple, student, faithful follower. And Jesus says, **"When the Spirit/truth comes, he will guide you into all truth" (Jn 16:33)** and will **"teach you all things" (Jn 14:26).** God answers our prayer for guidance by sending us his Holy Spirit, who works through: Word & Sacrament, preaching/teaching, church/school, Bible & Sacraments, preachers/pastors/pastors, to teach us what is true & guide us how to live. Even David: **vs. 8b-9, 12b.** Oh, that Lord would guide my ways (CW 705); and by his Spirit, does!

I Lift Up My Soul

- Ps 25 begins with words **vs. 1;** or, more literally: **"To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God" (NIV84).** David: often troubled soul; sometimes we are too. I can even think of times when Jesus had a troubled soul. Gethsemane; he's praying, in anguish, and with an impassioned plea, begs the Father for deliverance (if possible, take the cup). Then on the cross, prays for forgiveness – not for himself but for us! And on the night before he died, Jesus asks the Father to sanctify us by his Word/truth & send us his Spirit/truth. Jesus knows what it is like to have a troubled soul! So when your soul is troubled, do what Jesus did, and what David did in Ps 25: **vs. 1 (NIV84).** Lift up your troubled soul to Lord; raise heavenward your impassioned plea, for deliverance, forgiveness, & guidance. And in your heart, trust that your God will hear & answer your impassioned pleas with all wisdom and with perfect love. For, **vs. 8a, 10a, 21b.**

Psalm 25

¹In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. ²I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ³No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

⁴Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. ⁵Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. ⁶Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. ⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.

⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. ⁹He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. ¹⁰All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant. ¹¹For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

¹²Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose. ¹³They will spend their days in prosperity, and their descendants will inherit the land. ¹⁴The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. ¹⁵My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. ¹⁷Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. ¹⁸Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins. ¹⁹See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me!

²⁰Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. ²¹May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, LORD, is in you. ²²Deliver Israel, O God, from all their troubles!