

Sermon Notes - Psalm 74

A structure to help us pray in a difficult time:

1. Why? v1-11

Asking 'why?' maintains:

- God is sovereign
- God has a purpose
- Our humility

The Psalm also teaches us what we should be upset about.

- The Psalmist was most upset about the Temple being destroyed v4-8
- This should point us to the church (people not building!)
- Do we grieve over the sufferings and false teaching prevalent in the worldwide church?

2. But you... v12-17

- The Psalmist remembers God's character and deeds
- God has previously slain a monster (Exodus) v13-15
- God is the creator v16-17
- How does this help the Psalmist?
- He (and we) needs to know God is powerful and that God has dealt with monsters in the past
- We know God has also defeated the great monster (the devil - see Revelation 12) through the death of His Son
- So...however bad things are we know God is powerful and has the victory.

On the basis of God's character and deeds...

3. Rise up! v18-23

A bold call for God to take action. What the Psalmist asks for can shape our prayers too.

- Defend your cause v18 + 22-23
- Protect your people v19 + 21
- Have regard for your covenant v20 (for us the covenant is Jesus' death for the forgiveness of sins, so for God to 'have regard' for this will involve people coming to Jesus for forgiveness. So pray for this to happen.)

So how about using this as a structure for praying?