

Text — Psalm 34:1-3 ESV

1 *Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.*

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.

3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

5 Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

NEXT SUNDAY: Chuck Preach— Psalms 34:4-7

Outline: “At All Times”

- INTRO—

- Psalms have a setting, historical and scriptural, and this allows us to identify not just with the words but the tone of the song. Psalm 34 contained in Book 1 of the Psalms describes a scene from David's life...
 - *Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away. {Abimelech referring to the Philistine King Achish [Ah-hEEsh]}*
 - [1 Samuel 21:10-15 ESV] 10 And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish [Ah-hEEsh] the king of Gath. 11 And the servants of Achish [Ah-hEEsh] said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?" 12 And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish [Ah-hEEsh] the king of Gath. 13 So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. 14 Then Achish [Ah-hEEsh] said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? 15 Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"
 - [1 Samuel 22:1 ESV] 1 David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam [A-doo-lahm]...
- Acrostic Hebrew Poem— Meant to be remembered easily and to emphasize the embedded wisdom
- Incasing a wisdom section (v11-14)— as the psalm transitions from hymn to sermon
- Emphasizing thankfulness, wisdom, and a nod toward wit and the human historical condition/predicament

- QUOTE—ESV Study Bible

Ps. 34:1–3 Join Me in Blessing the Lord. After announcing his intention to bless the **LORD** at all times, the singer invites all the humble to join him in song. Behind this lies the idea that the ideal praise to God is his assembled people joining their voices in thanking him. The idea behind “bless” is to speak a good word about someone: when God blesses someone (e.g., 29:11), he speaks a good word over that person for his well-being; when a human blesses God (e.g., 26:12), he speaks a good word about God's kindness and generosity (cf. Eph. 1:3). To magnify the **LORD** is to tell how great he is (cf. Luke 1:46).

- PERSONAL/HISTORICAL— I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
 - Speak highly of the Lord (recommend him)
 - BECAUSE he rescued me... (praise initiated by circumstance)
 - He rescued me and he WILL rescue me
 - The value of the psalmists rescue/saving is “praise fuel” to never stop worshipping Him

- ABSTRACT/POETIC/SUPERNATURAL— My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
 - Personal LIFE (present and eternal) *doesn't get more personal*
 - will point to, recommend, give credit to the outside/alien/other power of the Lord
 - The humble— must set aside pride to hear and to hear is to be glad
 - the very essence of this verse is God is God and I'm not (he alone deals in souls)

- CORPORATE/TIMELESS— Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
 - Highlight, promote, emphasize, grow/increase & make great
 - Raise the volume and point out his glory
 - Lift his name
 - Carry it to the highest place for all to see (again... this may be personal BUT IT IS NOT PRIVATE)
 - Done together this is a labor of love, let no one ignore it, let nothing be louder or more prevalent
 - This will take ALL of us... TOGETHER

CONCLUSION: “... together”

- I becomes US in three short verses. And the US of the worshippers implies a unity under the banner of lifting up and making famous OUR God
 - REALIZE and be grateful
 - REPENT/RELENT and humbly and gladly follow our praiseworthy God (our should are SAFE in Him)
 - REMIND yourself and each other of his greatness and worth!

TOGETHER... we're in this together, that's true now and its true by faith forevermore. Our together is both those we see today, and those who have gone before us by faith. This psalm with its soul reference is not bound by time or our senses it is an eternal truth and one that brings us near to our ever present Lord.