

## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> April 30, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Pastor Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> Psalm 22: 1-31
<b>Topic:</b> The Way of the Cross – Leads to Singing	

For African-Americans in particular, music specifically singing seems to be a natural part of who we are as a people. In Africa for example, it is often said that any and every mood is captured by a song. In terms of the Christian experience, singing also plays an important role as Psalm 22 alludes to. Jesus even highlighted the relevance of Psalm 22 by quoting from verse 1 while hanging on the cross... “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*”

Psalm 22 does paint a picture of songs based on the experiences of the writer, and it also important to remember that Psalms are after all ‘songs.’ *Verses 1-10* for example can be seen as a **song of counting memories**. One gets the feeling from these verses that the writer is expressing a sense of being:

- Distant from God (verses 1-2)
- Disinherited by God (verses 3-5)
- Despised by God (verses 6-8)
- Disconnected from his only God (verses 9-10)

These first ten verses seem to depict a point in the writer’s life where he recalled a closeness to God, but now those times seem like mere memories. It’s as if the writer is singing about the God of yesterday, the way things use to be. We too often reach points in our lives when we pass through various situations where God seems distant and there is a feeling of disconnect. This ought to bring us to a point where we reflect on God. If in the present, things are not going as they were in the past, sometimes the only recourse or the starting point is to reflect on what we know about God and the experiences He has brought us through. Many of us have testimonies of how God heard our cries in the past.

*Verses 11-21* seem to be about a **song of crying for mercy**. The writer is expressing:

- A cry for closeness to God (verse 11)
- A cry from being cornered by enemies (verses 12-18)
- A cry for a quick counter-action by God (verses 19-21)

Often times, it takes the moments of distress to push us to seek God’s face. Rough times should lead us to singing to the God of today, because God does want us to cry to Him in the midst of our circumstances, whether good or bad. We all need to reach out to God and it is in doing this that change comes about. God does hear us in the present as He did in the past.

In *verses 22-31*, we see what is probably best described as a **song of celebrating majesty**. This is highlighted as the writer seems to be magnifying:

- The triumphant God of his people (verses 22-26)
- The triumphant God of all people (verses 27-28)
- The triumphant God of posterity i.e. future generations (verses 29-31). It’s as if the writer was saying that though he may die one day, witnesses of God’s glory will still remain.

When we see God in all His majesty, we realize that God is a God of all times. He is never outdated, never requires a ‘*latest version or upgrade*.’ As a matter of fact, we are the ones that need to ‘catch-up’ to what God is doing because He is dynamic in the way He reveals himself to different generations. We need to be rejoicing in God and to see Him as one that is to be hailed perpetually.

The times will come in our life’s journey when it seems as if we are walking in the valley of death, but in those times, we need to sing through our fears until our fears become faith.

