

## Psalm 56

### Outline and Discussion Questions

#### Outline of Sunday's Message

##### I. Cause of David's Fear (56:1, 2, 5, 6)

- A. Being pursued (56:1)
- B. Being attacked (56:2)
- C. Being slandered (56:5)
- D. Being conspired against (56:6)

##### II. David's Plea to God (56:1, 7-9)

###### A. Grace/Mercy (56:1, 8)

"be merciful to me" / "be gracious to me" / "direct favor upon me" (56:1)

"record my lament" / "take notice of me" (56:8)

###### B. Justice (56:7, 9)

"on no account let them escape; in your anger, O God, bring down the nations" (56:7)

"then enemies will turn back" (56:9)

##### III. David's Declaration of Trust (56:3, 4, 10)

###### A. The relationship between fear and trust

"When I am afraid, I will trust in you" (56:3)

"in God I trust" (56:4, 10)

"I will not be afraid" (56:4, 10)

##### IV. David's Reasons for Trust (56:4, 10-11)

###### A. God's Word is true and reliable (56:4, 10).

"in God whose word I praise"

David's declaration of trust is based on God's word and God's control of all things. We don't just decide to trust in some vague way. Instead, the basis of our trust is the word/promises of God.

###### B. God is on his side (56:4, 11).

"What can man do to me?"

###### C. God has delivered him before (56:13)

"For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling" (56:13)

V. The Light of Life (56:13)

A. David may have been referring to the pillar of fire that protected and led Israel

“that I may walk before God in the light of life” (56:13)

Jesus proclaims that he is the ultimate pillar of fire in John 8:12 where he declares “I am the light of the world.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some common fears that people face today?
2. Did David have legitimate reasons to be afraid? What were they?
3. How did David respond to his fear? What were his requests?
4. Looking at David’s experience, how would you describe the relationship between fear and trust? Take note especially of 56:3-4, 10-11.
5. What were David’s reasons for declaring his trust in God? Do these reasons for trust apply to us today? How so?
6. When David refers to the “light of life” in 56:13, do you think it is possible that David may have been thinking of the pillar of fire that protected and led Israel out of Egypt, through the wilderness and into the Promised Land? Why? Why not? How does Jesus’ declaration in John 8:12 relate to Psalm 56:13?