

Sermon Manuscript — Psalm 108

Oct 15, 2026 · @Logan

Text: Psalm 108. Transcribed from a 23-minute recording (The Hub, Venture Church) and lightly edited for reading; the preacher's wording and voice are kept. Scripture quotations follow the English Standard Version, which the sermon appears to use.

A Different Kind of Courage

Today we're in Psalm 108. It is a psalm of David, and in this psalm we're going to speak of courage. But the courage we will speak of is not the courage we normally talk about. It is in the Scriptures, and it is something God's people need, but it's not the courage that's talked about most of the time. This is a specific courage that I want to focus on this morning.

Let me begin by saying that David, in this psalm, is where he's been before. He's facing a situation where he needs to pray and seek God, and to know for certain that he is acting in the will of God, so that he can have God's favor, have victory, and exercise the courage we're going to talk about this morning.

David begins with a routine that now seems fixed in his experience. He wakes up every morning with a particular agenda. At first light, he thinks of God. His first activity is worshiping God, and that is going to be his experience every day. He's going to greet the dawn by giving thanks to the Lord. He's going to give thanks to the Lord among the peoples and among the nations. There is not a place or a time where he will not be faithful to this commitment.

Keep that in mind, because the courage we're going to talk about is not doing something daring. It's not what some people would call courage, or even bravery. What we're looking at is a courage that is necessary, a courage that is needed in every situation for a child of God.

Let me ask you a question. How many times have you faced a difficulty you weren't prepared for? And when it came, you asked the question everyone wants answered: *Why?* Or, to be more personal: *Why is this happening to me?*

It took you by surprise. But you've had a situation like that before, and you're going to have a situation like that again. As Christians, we know we're going to have trials and troubles and tribulations. We're supposed to greet those things with a heart of expectation, because we expected them, and with a heart that's prepared to respond.

Coming to the Great Physician

So the courage I'm going to talk about is a courage that is specifically for you. Listen up. You're going to have troubles again in the future. You may be having troubles today.

I find that many people come to church the way they go to the doctor. I've never been in a doctor's waiting room where I didn't look around and see that everybody looked well. But they weren't all well, or they wouldn't be there. They're concealing their problem. They're going to go into the exam room and reveal not their problem, but their symptoms, as far as they can.

Today you came to church. You may be in a difficult situation. You're dressed, you look well, and no one is going to be able to sense that you have a problem. But just like going to the doctor, you need to tell the Lord that you have this problem, and be very open and honest. He's the Great Physician. He never just treats symptoms. He treats the problem.

Doctors do the best they can. They listen to you describe your situation, assess the symptoms, say, "Well, I think this is the problem," and give you a medication. You take the medication, and then you find out you've traded your symptoms for side effects. "I can't take this." So you go back to the doctor, and either your prescription is replaced with another prescription, or you get a lower dose of what you're taking.

But this is not the way God wants us to live. He doesn't want us just treating symptoms. Today you have a problem, and God wants to deal with the problem. And I think I know what it is for all of us: when we have our problems, we just want the problem to go away. We don't want to learn from it.

David started his day thinking about God and worshiping God, saying, "I'm going to worship Him at all times and in every place. This is going to be my life." That didn't mean David wouldn't have problems. But it meant David was much more prepared for the problem: not simply to complain about it, or to wish it away, but to deal with it. And coming to the Lord with it is the way we deal with our problems.

Remembering What God Has Already Said

God has something to say to you, and you need to learn from your previous problems what God told you then. In this psalm, David recalls two psalms from the past, when he had problems similar to the ones he has now. He sought the Lord, and God gave him an answer, and that answer still stands. What God said in Psalm 57 and Psalm 60, David repeats almost word for word here in Psalm 108.

He's going back and remembering: "God has already addressed this before. I'm going to stand on His word. What He said, I'm going to believe. And then we'll deal with the problem."

As you and I know, David faced a bear, a lion, a giant, a king. David had a lot of problems. But in every one, David would either quote a word from God or bring to mind who God is. He didn't focus on the problem so much as he focused on God.

So I recommend his first words to you highly. Start every day with God as your first thought and worshiping God as your first action. Then become very sensitive to God's Word. David reflected back. He didn't come to the Physician saying, "I just want this to go away." He said, "I want to be able to face it as I have in times past. I want to be able to apply what You've said before." That is where David is in this psalm, and that is where I want you to be in your situation today.

I thank God that not everyone comes to church the way they go to the doctor. Some of you are like soldiers: you're here today for orders. Some of you have come for the family; you came for fellowship. But to enjoy the family and the fellowship, we need to be honest with one another about where we are, and encourage one another. That way all of this comes together in what I want to share with you about the courage God wants to give us.

Remember that Satan is the one who says things like, "If you really were a child of God, this would not be happening to you." That sounds like Job's friends, and Job's friends were rebuked for saying such

things. Satan said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from this high place, for it is written that He will command His angels concerning you." But that is a daredevil mentality. Why on earth would I throw myself off a high place? What we need to understand is what Jesus said: "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

You see, if our minds are not thinking godly thoughts, it's not likely we'll have the courage we need to go forward, wherever we are today.

Worship, the Word, and the Will of God

But let me say this to you. If we can get our worship going in the morning, let that be the order of the day: worshipping the Lord, not only in the morning, but at all times and in all places. Then, when we think about our problem, we need to become more sensitive to the Word of God in addressing it. What does God have to say about it? And in addition to that, we should seek to know the will of God.

I think these problems come up in our lives again and again and again to teach us to seek the Word of God, so that we know the will of God. "What do You want me to do? How do You want me to respond?"

In this case, David is faced with an enemy. But as David worships and praises God, he looks at the enemy and doesn't consider it a great threat compared with the God he is now worshiping. Look at what he says in verses 4 and 5:

For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

David has taken a measurement that neither he nor anyone else really has a number for. How far are the clouds above the earth? I can see them, but I can't measure the distance. How far is the closest star in the heavens? I don't know. All I know is that it is an immeasurable distance. So he's singing to the Lord, "God, Your steadfast love is immeasurable. I have no way of measuring Your great love and Your faithfulness."

He has put his attention on God, on His Word, and on worship. That makes David very sensitive to the Word of God, so that he might know the will of God. That's really the answer he's seeking. Not that the problem would go away, but "What do You want me to do, and how should I respond, that I might do Your will?"

One thing we really need to grasp is that God has given us a means to deal with every problem we encounter. As Christians especially, He has given us the ability to hear and know the Word of God. Philippians tells us, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." God has given us both the permission and the blessing to exercise a Christlike mind: a mind sensitive to the Word of God, a mind that wants nothing more than to know the Word of God so that the will of God may be clear. As Corinthians tells us, we have the mind of Christ. We are not thinking with the mind of man; we are thinking with the mind of the Lord.

So the more we yield ourselves to being in God's presence in worship, and also listen carefully to the words He has given us (in David's case, his earlier psalms), the more sensitive we become to knowing the will of God. Romans 12 tells us we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. That happens as we get into the Word of God until we find ourselves thinking as God thinks. And in thinking

as God thinks about our situations, we find the will of God. In finding the will of God, we know what to do. This is His instruction for us.

David has already done some things that I think we should take to heart even now. While I'm speaking, your problem may be on your mind. You've already entered the exam room, and here you are. God is telling you that He knows what your problem is. He's giving you a word. That word is the prescription. That word reveals the will of God, and you walk out of this place today knowing the will of God and begin to practice what you have received.

If we take in the Word of God and come to understand the will of God, our only action beyond that is to put God's will into practice. What He has said is what we will do.

God Answers David

That is the question before David now: "So what do You want me to do, God? You are as far above us as the clouds are from the earth, as the heavens are from the earth. You are great. There is nothing great that we will encounter. You are our great God, to be exalted over all. So now what do we do?"

And God answers David. David prays, "That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer me!" And in verses 7 through 9:

God has promised in his holiness: "With exultation I will divide up Shechem and portion out the Valley of Succoth. Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet, Judah my scepter. Moab is my washbasin; upon Edom I cast my shoe; over Philistia I shout in triumph."

What I see is this: David has acknowledged who God is. He has acknowledged the problem, and he says, "God, I just need an answer." God's Word comes to him, and he is very sensitive to God's Word and God's answer. So he knows the will of God: "I don't have to worry. God has everything under control. He even has a plan that He has shared with me." He's going to divide up Shechem and portion out the Valley of Succoth. "Gilead is mine, Manasseh is mine, Ephraim is my helmet." He is saying that everything is in place for His will to be accomplished. There is no reason to worry.

David had been down this road of learning the will of God before. That is why he attacked a lion and a bear, and why he stood in the shadow of the giant and killed Goliath: he wasn't acting on his own thoughts, but on the sure Word of God. You have that as your prescription today: the sure Word of God. Whether you act on it is another thing.

What God is going to do also tells David some things about the near future. Moab is His washbasin, the lowest level of service, washing feet. Edom is there with the dirty shoe. God is going to take care of that. These enemies are going to be dealt with, and David has no reason to think about the enemy. He is going to shout in triumph over Philistia. We have that for certain.

So we find David worshiping, thinking God's thoughts, praising God, receiving God's answer, and acting on that answer. Then he says these things at the close of the psalm:

Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom? Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go out, O God, with our armies.

I believe what we should see in these verses is that if David decided to trust himself or his army, that would be the wrong response. God has already said, "I'm taking care of it." If you go out in your own strength, that is not something God would approve. David is learning that he can't go out without God, and God has not instructed him to go out without Him. Wait on God, and God will give you the answers you need.

With God We Shall Do Valiantly

"Grant us help." That's a word that brings people running from all around to see what's going on: *Help!* But we're not crying out to people; we're crying out to God. Then David says this very clearly: "Vain is the salvation of man!" We've learned our lesson. We will not trust ourselves to get ourselves out of whatever problem we may have today. We're trusting God. His Word is what we will obey and do, and we'll trust Him to take care of all the particulars of our problem.

The psalm closes with these words:

With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.

He is our victory. So worshiping God, thinking His thoughts, declaring His will, and submitting to it is the way we go through what we're facing, and learn whatever lesson we should be learning from the trial we have now.

It's not wrong for us to pray that the trial would just go away. But the Bible tells us that in our trials and tribulations there is a particular thing that must be exercised, and that is patience. We must let patience have its perfect work, that we may become mature. And when we become mature, we will face the next trial with the same response: worshiping God, hearing His Word, acting on His Word, and allowing the problem to remain until God has done His work. The Bible says that when patience has its perfect work, we become mature, wanting nothing. I would say that means wanting nothing more than God's will to be done, always.

Closing and Prayer

So I want to encourage you today: if you came here with a problem, God already knows about it. He wants you to turn your attention to Him: thank Him, worship Him, praise Him, and become sensitive to His words. When you hear His Word, accept it, believe it, and carry out any act of obedience that Word brings to your attention. So I say to you all: with God we shall do valiantly. He is the one who will solve our problems and give us peace.

I want you to do one thing for me this week. Read Psalms 106 and 107 in preparation for another look at Psalm 108. I think you're going to find that God's people, especially in Psalm 106, so many times seek God, seek God, seek God, and God gives an answer. Then they forget God and go on about their business. God wants to help, and He will help. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

Maybe when you leave today you'll see a friend in the foyer, or you'll go over to Next Steps. Would you ask people to pray with you and bear your burdens? That is part of fulfilling the will of God, that we bear one another's burdens. Maybe before you leave, you'll walk up to someone you know and ask if you can

pray for them in some way. Let us begin to include others in our obedience, in sharing our burdens, and in helping one another. This is part of being the body of Christ.

Lord, we thank You for this day. We thank You for this Word. We pray You would bless it to the hearts and lives of Your people, and help us to see this psalm for what it really is: a message that with You, we will do valiantly.