

## **Sermon Outline**

### **“The Most Influential Preacher in Your Life” – Psalm 42 Dr. Paul Tripp – February 5, 2012**

#### **Introduction**

1. The most influential preacher in your life is YOU, because no one talks to you more than you.
2. Why are you the most influential preacher in your life? Human beings made in the image of God’s do not live according the facts of their experience but according to the interpretation of those facts. We are interpreters of life. That’s why two people in the same circumstance can respond in vastly different ways.

#### **Our Temptations**

1. When we are facing difficult trials and circumstances, we can face three temptations:
  - a. We realize that our life is not working according to our plans. We realize that we are not the author of our own story. At these moments, we can be tempted to believe that life is out-of-control.
  - b. We are our own theologians and are asking profound theological questions, “What is God doing? Why is this happening to me? Is this the sum total of my life?”
  - c. We are susceptible to accusations from those watching, “Where’s your God? Where’s your Jesus, now?”
2. In these moments of difficulty, we will turn and preach some kind of gospel to ourselves. What kind of gospel are we preaching?

#### **Our Commitment**

1. We must be committed, moment by moment, to confront our hearts. We cannot allow ourselves to be carried along by wherever our emotions want to lead us. We must not let the accusations of those watching be a strong voice we listen to. If we do, we will only “trouble our trouble.”
2. We must persevere and address our heart: “Heart, why are you doing this? Heart, why are you in a panic? Heart, why are you giving way to discouragement? Heart, what is going on?”

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### **Our Hope**

1. No matter what we are facing, no circumstance can compromise true hope because true hope is not circumstantial, locational, situational, or material (i.e., hope found in the stuff of this world).
2. Hope is an object and an expectation. We are always placing our hope in something (object). And we are always asking the object of our hope to deliver (expectation).
3. True and genuine Hope's name is Jehovah. We will never find hope in understanding the "whys" of our circumstances. Hope is only found in the Person (the triune God) who understands. And even though we do not understand, we can trust that our loving Father is perfectly good and has only our best interest at heart.
4. Abraham's faith is an example of true hope and immovable trust. In Romans 4:18-22, Abraham looked at the reality of his own aged body and the deadness of Sarah's womb, but he never lost hope in the promise that God would give them a child. Instead, his faith grew strong as he meditated on the character and promises of God.
  - a. Like Abraham, faith never calls us to deny reality. True faith can look at the darkest realities and not lose hope, because hope is not circumstantial. Hope does not meditate on the circumstances but meditates on God's character and promises.
  - b. When our meditation is on the mysteries of the circumstances, we will be beat up with doubts, despair, discouragement and hopelessness.

### **Our Salvation**

1. When we are in inexplicable circumstances, we often do not give praise for our salvation. Instead, we believe that if the Lord would make life easier or change the circumstances, then we would praise Him.
2. However, there is a deeper trouble from which we need to be rescued. We are sinners before a Holy God who desperately need a Redeemer. That's why the psalmist cries out in verse 5b, "Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, *my salvation and my God.*"
3. The situation in which we find ourselves may not be solvable, but our greatest problems and deepest need have been solved by our Savior. In the darkness of these moments, we have reasons to sing. We are rescued and redeemed from the kingdom of darkness. The power of sin is broken and the penalty of sin is satisfied. We are filled with the Holy Spirit. The mysteries of His Word have been revealed to us and His presence is eternally abiding. Our deepest disaster has been solved by His grace. That's hope! And that's worth lifting our voices in praise!

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### **Fellowship Starters**

1. Take time as a care group to read Psalm 42 and Romans 4:18-22.
2. When life is going well, what gospel do you preach to yourself? When difficulties assail your soul, what gospel do you preach to your soul?
3. In times of peace and trial, in what do you place your hope; to what are you connecting your hope? What do you ask this hope to deliver?
4. In the midst of your difficulties, do you travel the road of the “what ifs” and meditate on the circumstances? How can you address your heart and remind yourself of all that God is and all that He has promised?
5. What are some of the truths and promises in God’s Word that will preach true Hope to your heart?
6. Paul Tripp said, “In the darkness...we have reasons to sing...our deepest disaster has been solved by His grace.” What does he mean and why does this hope give us reason to praise, even in trial?