

# Today

**Ps 95:7-8**

**1**

7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you would hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,

As is so often found in the scriptures, we see warnings mixed with praise. In this passage it might almost be said that the warning is the praise, or vice versa, if you will. This Psalm rings loud with praise, and yet at the same time it speaks a warning of enormous magnitude.

Remember, the Canaanite still dwells among Israel. This Psalm is attributed to David by the Vulgate, the Septuagint, the AEthiopic, the Arabic, and the Syriac manuscripts, and also by...

**Heb 4:7**

**2**

7 He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, **"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."**

Calmet and other so-called eminent critics believe that it was composed during the time of the captivity, and that the apostle only followed the common opinion in quoting it as the production of David, because in general the Psalter was attributed to him. (From Adam Clarke's Commentary)

Something else to remember about this Psalm; when Israel came out of Egypt, it was a mixed group. Now, what I mean by that is that with any group of people there will always be those that support one way and those that support a different way. We have to assume that among the Israelites there were many who had a deep desire to do what God commanded, there were those who were keeping God's commandments because of the strength of faith of others, and there were those who didn't have faith in God to keep His commandments at all. The pattern of the Israelites was that when they had strength in leadership and strength in the faithful of the group, they remained faithful to God, but when the vocal few whose faith was not as strong spoke out, then the group mentality took over and they turned from God. This is the dynamic that David and Israel faced. They are living among nations that want nothing more than to destroy them. Their continued existence is dependent on them maintaining a relationship with God and that relationship is based on their faith and obedience.

This brings us to the statement that is attributed to David here in Psalms 95. He is praising God while at the same time exhorting the Israelites to...

**3**

***"Not harden their hearts"***

Keeping their faith strong in God, being obedient to Him, was the greatest goal that they could hope to achieve. David is encouraging them to make that goal.

Understanding the glory and majesty of God as is seen in His Word can only be accomplished when we understand that His glory cannot be separated from His wrath. His reward to the obedient is understood to be such only in contrast to His punishment for the disobedient.

That said it becomes rather important for us to learn what David is talking about. There are some thoughts then that I would like to look at from this Psalm...

- 4) 1) There is a time
- 2) There is a voice
- 3) There is a message

David begins this Psalm with a praise, an acknowledgment of God and a submission of ourselves to Him...

5) 7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand

This is a statement of faith.

He is our God, and we are His people. Is that how we feel. Do we accept God as our God? Just last week we had a lesson titled, Is God Your God. That's the question David is answering with an emphatic YES. God is his God and he has submitted himself to his shepherd. That is what he is telling the Israelites to do, and he is telling them...

6) 1) There is a time

David says...

7) ***"Today if ye will hear His voice."***

8) David gives a time, it is today.

***Ex 32:29***

9

29 Then Moses said, "Dedicate yourselves today to the Lord—for every man has been against his son and against his brother—in order that He may bestow a blessing upon you today."

***Deut 4:39-40***

10

39 "Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other. 40 "So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time."

***Acts 22:16***

11

16 Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

These are just a few of the examples that we can look at from the scriptures that illustrate the urgency that God places on faith and obedience. I have looked, I have done word searches on "Tomorrow" or "Later" and while there are numerous occasions of usage in the scriptures for both, none of those usages ever speak about waiting until tomorrow or later to be faithful or to start

obeying. Tomorrow or later just doesn't get it. God doesn't want us tomorrow, He wants us today...

**Matt 8:20-22**

**12**

**20** Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." **21** Another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." **22** But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."

Jesus points out the urgency of following him in this passage...

**13**

***"Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."***

God's word says nothing about tomorrow, except to forbid us from boasting of it, and since we don't know what tomorrow will bring...

**James 4:14**

**14**

**14** Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

There is no guarantee about tomorrow. We live, we die, we are here for a very short time period and then we are gone and James says we...

**15**

***"Vanish away"***

Our creator understands this because He made us. We have such little time to accomplish a life time of desires, goals, and ambitions. Then we are gone. The problem, I'm sorry, problem isn't the right word. The idea, I guess, is...

**2 Cor 5:10**

**16**

**10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

God knows that each and every one of us will face being judged by His righteous standard and He does not want us to fail that test...

**2 Peter 3:9**

**17**

**9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

That is why He gave us a way to return to a covenant relationship with Him through His Son Jesus the Christ.

That, my friends, is the urgency of David's statement.

**18**

***"Today"***

He is telling the Israelites that to wait is beyond foolishness, it borders on suicide, spiritual suicide. The time is “today” for them to do something about their relationship with God. So he tells them...

**19**

***“If you would hear His voice”***

**20**

2) There is a voice

Place the emphasis in this statement on the word “HIS.” Look at the context of this Psalm...

***Ps 95:1-2***

**21**

**1** O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. **2** Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Throughout the first six verses of this Psalm we see David calling to God's faithful people to come singing for joy before Him. He praises God as being above the highest, as being the creator of it all, and he invites the people to join him in bowing down before God, the one and only creator, man's maker.

We said just a moment ago that the emphasis in David's statement should be on “His”, that's God's, voice. David is pleading for the Israelites to hear God's voice, to hear what He is saying.

***Luke 8:11***

**22**

**11** "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.

God is pleading with His creation to come to Him, to be restored, to be saved.

***John 3:16***

**23**

**16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

The voice of God is calling...

***1 Tim 2:3-4***

**24**

**3** This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Paul speaks to this as he says much the same thing as David did...

***Eph 4:1***

**25**

**1** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Do you see what Paul is saying to the Ephesians? There is a calling that he is imploring them to walk worthily of. That calling is...

***2 Tim 1:8-9***

**26**

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

God calls man through His Son Christ, through His Word, the Gospel, which is the revelation of His power to man. This brings us to our last point...

**27** 3) There is a message

David states the message in...

**28** 8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,

In Exodus 17 the Israelites are camped at Rephidim and begin to complain and grumble against Moses because of the lack of water. When they complain to Moses he asks them...

**29** ***“Why do you test the Lord”***

This is where the Lord tells Moses that He would stand with Moses before the rock and that reference that David is making in Psalms 95. That is the message he is imploring them to listen to...

**30** ***“Don’t harden your hearts as was done at Meribah and Massah”***

The illustration is Meribah and Massah, the message is “Don’t harden your hearts.” This is the message for all of God’s people, regardless of the century.

Kawshaw; OT:7185

**31**

A primitive root; properly, to be dense, i.e. tough or severe (in various applications) KJV - be cruel, be fiercer, make grievous, be ([ask a], be in, have, seem, would) hard (-en, [labour], -ly, thing), be sore, (be, make) stiff (-en, [-necked]).

The depth of how this word is used and translated emphasizes the importance that we understand just how strong of a word it is. It just doesn’t mean to become stubborn. It is talking about developing an attitude that is hostile towards God and His truth. It is talking about becoming cruel in how we deal with others as well as with God. It is talking about taking stubborn to not just the next level but the penthouse of hard-headedness. That is what David is trying to illustrate for the Israelites with his reference to Meribah and Massah. They understood the reference and they understood the message. In the words of David...

**32** The time is now, there may not be any tomorrow. The voice of God is calling to each and every one of His creation, and the message is don’t harden our hearts to His calling. Listen with our minds and our hearts.