



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Psalm 44:1-26

To the choirmaster. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah. [1] O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old: [2] you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free; [3] for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them. [4] You are my King, O God; ordain salvation for Jacob! [5] Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down those who rise up against us. [6] For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me. [7] But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us. [8] In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever. *Selah*

[9] But you have rejected us and disgraced us and have not gone out with our armies. [10] You have made us turn back from the foe, and those who hate us have gotten spoil. [11] You have made us like sheep for slaughter and have scattered us among the nations. [12] You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no high price for them. [13] You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us. [14] You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples. [15] All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face [16] at the sound of the taunter and reviler, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

[17] All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant. [18] Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way; [19] yet you have broken us in the place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death. [20] If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, [21] would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart. [22] Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.

[23] Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever! [24] Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression? [25] For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground. [26] Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!

Sermon Outline:

1. See what others cannot see (6-7)
2. Say what others will not say (7-8)
3. Keep going when others give up (9-11)
4. Do what others will not do (12)
5. Reap what others have not sown (13-14)

Life Group Leader Notes:





- Before this sermon, how have you interacted with Psalm 44? Were you familiar with this text? Did the harsh language surprise or unsettle anyone? What did you learn in the sermon this Sunday?
- In this week's sermon, we looked at following God with a whole heart in the valleys of defeat. We learned that the nation had obeyed God, but it ended in their unexpected defeat & disappointment. Has this ever happened to anyone in the group? If you are comfortable, please share that experience.
- Is your understanding of God's sovereignty balanced? Do you tend to see his hand in your victories and neglect his work in your disappointments? (Or perhaps you see him working in your suffering and not your victories.) Other than Psalm 44, what other examples in Scripture can you think of where God led his servants into disappointment & pain?
- Why does it take more faith to bring a lament to God than a happy jingle about how much we trust him when the sun is shining? Have you learned how to lament? If you have not lamented, what is preventing you from voicing this type of prayer? How can we be honest & bold in our complaint, but still honor God as holy? (If your group wants to explore this topic further, I strongly recommend Mark Vroegop's book *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy*.)
- When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he combated the lies of Satan with Scripture. Pastor Michael suggested that we memorize Hebrews 12:1-2. What other passage of Scripture do you lean on to help you endure through difficult seasons?
- Have you ever had to make a decision in obedience to the Lord, knowing that your decision might hurt you? How did that go? Think of a few examples in Scripture where people stepped into obedience, knowing that the outcome might be painful (Esther: *If I perish, I perish*. Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego: *But even if not...* Stephen's speech before he was stoned).
- How does Paul use Psalm 44 in Romans chapter 8? Where does he agree with the sons of Korah? Where does he give us a better perspective than the sons of Korah?
- What does it mean that we are *more* than conquerors? How has God used suffering to transform you?

