

“The Lord Delivers”:
Praying through Affliction
Sermon Notes

The psalmist invites us to pray through our affliction:

1) LORD, draw us into your glory (1-3)

...even in affliction?

2) LORD, you alone can rescue, so deliver us (4-7)

...to what end?

3) LORD, teach us wisdom (8-14)

...but many are the afflictions, so...

4) LORD, deepen our assurance that you rescue (15-22)

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the week of July 27th - August 1st

This week, we're going to use the COMA method of studying the Bible, with some adaptation to our text, Psalm 34. This method comes from Pastor David Helm in the book *One-to-One Bible Reading*.

Context

Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the passage was written (hint: what about the psalm sub-heading? Also, read 1 Samuel 21:1-22:2)?

Observation

This is Hebrew poetry in song, so let us consider:

What ideas are repeated (hint: words for "worship" in vv. 1-3; or descriptions of troubles; note: there are others!)? And, what lines of this song parallel one-another (e.g. the two lines of verse 1)?

What images or metaphors does the psalmist use?

How are the physical senses engaged in this psalm (e.g. look, mouth, hear, taste, body posture & touch)?

What is the tone of the passage? What emotions is the psalmist arousing?

Meaning

Are there specific instructions/commands given by the psalmist? Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands?

How does the psalmist motivate the reader/audience, or make his appeal?

What does the poetic passage teach us about God, those who worship God, those who don't worship God, and life in his world? What might they indicate about us as modern readers?

Does the passage point forward to Jesus? Is the gospel anticipated or foreshadowed in some way?

What are the two main ideas of Psalm 34 (hint: verses 1-7 and then verses 8-22)?

Application

How do the main ideas of Psalm 34 challenge (or confirm) your understanding and beliefs?

Is there some attitude you need to change? Given Psalm 34, what should your heart desire?

How does Psalm 34 challenge you to change the way you live? Lead you to be loyal to King Jesus?