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Sermon Notes

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## **The Consuming Zeal of the Christ: Its Shadow, Cost, and Consummation**

### **Psalm 69**

#### **I. What Is Zeal?**

- Like a forest fire? 6.9 million acres ablaze all summer long??
- Like the sun, burning relentlessly and endlessly for the life of humanity
- Like the eyes of Jesus as He sat to weave a whip
- Like the prayers of missionary David Brainerd, soaked with sweat as he prayed for Indians and for the world

#### **II. David's Partial Foreshadowing**

##### **A. Despair in persecution (vs. 1-12)**

1. Numerous foes: more than the hairs of his head (vs. 4)

**vs. 4** ***"Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head"***

- a. sheer number of enemies overwhelming to David
- b. so also is their power and strength

**[NASB] vs. 4** ***"Those who would destroy me are powerful..."***

- c. David's enemies listed: HIS OWN PEOPLE!!
  - i) King Saul: sought to kill David out of jealousy
  - ii) Benjamites & tribes of Israel: civil war for two years
  - iii) various rebels, betrayers, conspirators

**Absalom: his own son, rebelled against David**

Shimei: (Benjamite) stood by the road and cursed David as a man of blood

Sheba: (Benjamite) led a revolt against David

Cush: (Benjamite) mentioned in Psalm 7

Doeg: Edomite mentioned in 1 Samuel 21 (betrayed him to Saul)

Ziphites: tried to hand him over to Saul, 1 Sam. 23, "Is not David hiding in our town?"

iv) many Psalms about these enemies

***Psalm 17, Psalm 18*** [whole Psalm about God's deliverance of David from his enemies]

***Psalm 23:5*** "You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies."

***Psalm 25 Psalm 41, Psalm 59*** [Men sent to David's house to watch for him and assassinate him] ***Psalm 64 Psalm 31***

2. Opposition from foes: like sinking in quicksand (vs. 1-4)

**vs. 1-2** "Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. <sup>2</sup> I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me."

Illus. Quicksand; mud by the river Nile

David feels desperately overmatched... how can anyone watch his back constantly?

3. Hated without cause?

**vs. 4** "Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause..."

a. not Philistines or outside foes... that would be expected

b. these are Jews... members of his own flesh and blood

**vs. 8** "I am a stranger to my brothers; an alien to my own mother's sons..."

c. Jews opposed David's reign with violence or sought to take his crown

d. this was brutally UNJUST

David was the Lord's anointed, chosen specifically by God to rule; to rebel against him was to rebel against God; WHY DID THEY FIGHT AGAINST HIM?? They hated him without a cause

BUT... this doesn't mean David was sinless

e. David acknowledges his guilt (vs. 5-6)

*vs. 5-6 You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you. <sup>6</sup> May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the LORD Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel.*

Perhaps David is thinking about his sin with Bathsheba, or maybe simply about his general daily sinfulness

*Psalm 40: 12 my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.*

Two things David said were more numerous than the hairs on his head: his enemies, and his own personal sins

f. BUT David had the right to rule... did nothing unjustly

They had no right to rebel against his kingship!! They hated him for no reason

4. Public ridicule (vs. 10-12)

*vs. 10-12 When I weep and fast, I must endure scorn; <sup>11</sup> when I put on sackcloth, people make sport of me. <sup>12</sup> Those who sit at the gate mock me, and I am the song of the drunkards.*

Illus. Equivalent of having Jay Leno or David Letterman give ten jokes a day for two months about your struggles

5. Reason: Godly zeal and commitments (vs. 9)

*vs. 9 "For zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me."*

### **Example: David & Goliath, the start of it all**

Then, ungodly jealousy for David's zealous love for God

Those who insulted him were really seeking to insult God... it was God they hated, and they took it out on God's anointed

- a. "for God's house..." TEMPLE NOT YET BUILT
- b. David's yearning to build the Temple consumed him
- c. perhaps the building of God's "house" in the reign of Messiah
- d. Perhaps God's people are God's "house"

Summary: David was the anointed King of God and had a deep desire for the glory of God's name; this zeal went so far as to include the building of a house, a Temple for God's glory; God responded that He would build a house for him and make all his enemies fall before him

Yet because of his position as God's anointed King, and because of his zeal for God's house, David had many powerful and bitter enemies... sometimes, it seemed like they would overwhelm him

B. Desire for punishment (vs. 13-28)

1. Deliverance first, Vengeance second

- a. prayer for deliverance... vs. 13-18

***vs. 13-14 But I pray to you, O LORD, in the time of your favor; in your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation. <sup>14</sup> Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.***

- b. recounting the bitterness of their hatred... vs. 19-21

***vs. 20-21 Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none. <sup>21</sup> They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.***

- c. prayer for vengeance... vs. 22-28

***vs. 24, 27-28 Pour out your wrath on them; let your fierce anger overtake them... do not let them share in your salvation. <sup>28</sup> May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.***

- 2. Wrath on foes?? Is this godly?

- a. commentators point out the difference here between David and Christ
- b. David wanted vengeance on his enemies; Christ prayed for His
- c. BUT this forgets the difference between the ignorant sin of the Romans and the willful sins of the Jews
- d. Peter applied this Psalm to Judas who betrayed Jesus
- e. Paul quotes this to explain the blindness of Jews who reject Christ as Messiah

David's prayer for vengeance is no different than Psalm 110:

***Psalm 110:1 "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"***

3. Deliverance for a King means destruction for his enemies
  - like wrestling with a cobra...one will end up dead
  - what they want is his power... but he's the anointed king
4. David's justice & fairness to enemies... but there is a limit

C. Declaration of praise (vs. 29-36)

***vs. 31 I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.***

***vs. 34 Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them***

1. David's regular pattern: lay out the problem, praise God for the solution
2. David's vision: prosperity for his people
  - a. the "humble" in the land will see and rejoice (vs. 32)
  - b. those who seek God will have revived hearts
  - c. the needy & prisoners are the oppressed... look to David's deliverance as a picture of their own... the same God does both
3. Ultimate hope: peace and security for Israel... and for all the world as well

Summary: David's life of suffering at the hands of his enemies was a picture of the future sufferings of the Christ at the hands of his. David is the shadow, Jesus the reality; David the imperfect picture, Christ the perfect fulfillment

### III. Christ's Perfect Fulfillment

Question: why is Psalm 69 the most quoted Psalm in the NT, with some nine separate quotations or allusions? John cites verse 9 in regard to Jesus' zeal in cleansing the Temple in John 2:17—**"Zeal for your house has consumed me"**. Jesus cited verse 4 himself in John 15:25 to explain why the Jews refused to believe in Him despite all His miracles—**"They hated me without reason."** Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all refer to the clear fulfillment of Christ's refusing the gall and drinking the vinegar at His crucifixion—**"They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst"**. Peter quotes verse 25 in regard to Judas's betrayal of Christ and his abandoning of his position as an apostle in Acts 1—**"May his place be deserted, may there be no one to dwell in it"**. Paul quotes verses 22-23 in Romans 11 to explain why some Jews reject Jesus as their Messiah—**"May the table set before them become a snare; may it become retribution and a trap. May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see and their backs be bent forever."** Again, Paul quotes verse 9 to explain why Christians should live for others and not for themselves, for even Christ did not seek to please Himself, but as it is written, **"The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."**

A. Cause for His Persecution: "Zeal for your house has consumed me."

#### 1. The Cleansing of the Temple

- a. sacrificial system merely a business opportunity for powerful Jewish leaders
- b. sacrificial system also an excuse for the people to sin more and more
- c. Jesus' zeal burned within him like the fire that burned in the bush Moses saw
- d. with fiery zeal He cleansed His Temple, whip cracking and commands ringing
- e. lit. "Zeal for your house has eaten me up" or "destroyed me"

Jesus twice cleansed the Temple... these cleansings galvanized the Jewish leaders to put Him to death

*Mark 11:18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him...*

Jesus knew full well that this zeal would bring about His death: in John 2, they asked Him for a sign to prove His authority to cleanse the Temple:

*John 2:19-21 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body.*

Amazingly, Jesus' zeal for the house of God had nothing to do ultimately with the Temple, but rather with the people:

***Hebrews 10:21*** [calls Jesus the “great priest over the house of God”]

***Hebrews 3:6*** *But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.*

In His perfect zeal for the house of God, Jesus was willing to be physically destroyed, to die in order to clean the house perfectly. We are the house of God... we are the Holy temple... and we were filthy with sin; Jesus' zeal to clean us up ultimately killed Him

2. The Betrayal by Judas
3. The Rejection by the Jews

Common theme: Jewish people simply would not have this man rule over them!! Jesus was not their Messiah, and they would fight Him every step of the way

#### B. Sharing in His Persecutions

1. David played a special role: a foreshadowing of Messiah's suffering
2. Christ fulfilled it perfectly: His sufferings cleansed the House of God from sin
3. Now is our turn: sharing in Christ's sufferings advances His Kingdom

**vs. 9** *“The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”*

#### C. Consummation for His People: “God will save Zion”

1. Because of Jesus' zeal, there is salvation for God's people
2. Eternal life results from Christ's passion
3. This is the ultimate fulfillment of Christ's suffering

## IV. Application: Christ's Zeal and Yours

### A. Christ's Zeal for the Glory of God

1. He lived and breathed to do the Father's will

2. He courageously spoke the words the Father had told Him to spoke
3. He was willing to suffer insults from people who hated God

**vs. 9 “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”**

Christ was so perfectly united with His Father that He was willing to suffer abuse from God-haters.

4. Christ died that God’s name may be glorified

***John 12:27-28 “And now my heart is troubled and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No!! It was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”***

What about you? Do you desire above all things that God’s name be glorified? Do you have a passion that all peoples throughout this globe may know the true, eternal, living God? Does it grieve you above all things when God’s name is trampled by human sinfulness?

Are you willing to pay the price to stand with God? Are you delighted to share in Christ’s sufferings if it means that God’s name will be glorified? Are you willing that the insults of God-haters will fall on you too?

#### B. Christ’s Zeal for the Holiness of God’s People

1. He cleansed the temple with blazing eyes
2. He walks among the golden lampstands with blazing eyes
3. He hates sin and wants His people purified

What about you? Are you zealous for the holiness of the church? Does it grieve you to see the sin in your own life? Are you willing to take a spiritual whip through your own soul and clean out whatever is offensive to God? And are you also zealous for the purity of this body of Christians? Will you pray that this people will be holy, down to the secrets of the heart and the habits of the life?

#### C. Christ’s Zeal for the Building of God’s House

1. David sat in his cedar palace and thought, “What about God’s house?”
2. Jesus left His throne on high and came to earth to build a house for God

3. Peter tells us of the growth of that house... living stone by living stone

***1 Peter 2:4-5 As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--<sup>s</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***

What about you? Are you passionate about the completion of that spiritual house where God will live by His Spirit? Are you passionate about world missions? Are you willing even to leave this country to go to some frontier mission site and lay down your life for the adding of some spiritual stones, some people who have never heard the name of Christ?

Where is your fire, your zeal, your passion?

Does zeal for the name of God, the holiness of God's people, and the building of God's spiritual house enflame your life?