

Wednesday Word Meditation Material (April 15, 2020)

Order/Prayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Sharing → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 154 & 155 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 142:1~7
- ❖ **Meditation on Scripture**
 1. The beginning part of this psalm is with a parenthesis or italic saying, “*A Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.*” This part is used to being as explanation of the psalm. But, the Hebrew Bible, the original language Bible, includes this in the main body of the psalm. So, we are supposed to read that part as the content of the psalm.
 2. The background written in that part shows us that this psalm was written when David was in a cave. We should read 1Samuel 24 in order to understand the whole content of this background. David, as the 2nd king of Israel after being anointed by Samuel(God), fled from Saul, the 1st king of Israel because Saul wanted to kill him. When David was in the extremely difficult situation, God saved David and the people around him, and led them to stay in one cave located around Wildgoats' Rocks in the wilderness of “Engedi.” Then, Saul came into the cave for a relief (or nap). The people around David urged him to kill Saul. David, instead of killing him according to their idea, cut off the edge of Saul’s robe. Rather, he calmed down his followers saying that to kill God’s anointed belonged to God.
 3. **This psalm was written around that event.**
 4. David was not in a plentiful and comfortable situation when he decided not to kill Saul. But, in verse 1, he prayed to God with his voice. In the prayer, he expressed that the situation is complaint in verse 2. In that, David experienced two opposite things at the same time. The one is written in verse 4, “no refuge remains to me. The other one is written in verse 5, “You are my refuge.” In his real life situation, around him was there any refuge. But, after that realization on his life situation, he confessed that God alone is his refuge. **Because he had this kind of invaluable confession of faith, David could hand over his real life matters and life burdens to God rather than relying on his own discretion.**
 5. David acknowledged the reality that “Saul, the 1st king, was stronger than him”(v. 6). When he confessed that, he did not want to keep his self-esteem before God even before Saul because he clearly confessed that. Rather, he just acknowledged all his weakness and impossibility in terms of his “less” powerfulness in his real life. With this true confession, David could confess God as the One who can bring him out of prison(v. 7) and rely on Him.
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. We can confess “COVID-19 is stronger than us.” We cannot defend this virus with any method so we just hide us from it. In that sense, we are depicted as “prisoner kept in prison called, COVID-19.” Yes, we don’t have any refuge against COVID-19 now. But, at the same time, we our heavenly Father, God, is our refuge. This truth gives us comfort.
 2. Why don’t we submit **God, “Refuge,”** all the problems and burdens of life and COVID-19?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.