

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

"BUT GOD" SERIES

These questions are for the **October 15, 2017** sermon, "But You, O LORD, are a Shield." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 3) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

IN TROUBLING TIMES, CONSIDER . . .

1. The opposition God's people face (1-2)
 - a. David begins with the LORD, not with the foe: "O, LORD . . ."
 - i. David's foe here is his own son, Absalom, so he cries out to the Lord.
 - ii. And David has many other foes as well. He is absolutely overwhelmed.
 - b. Friends can become enemies very quickly. The loyal ones may turn on you, but the LORD never will. One does not speak for the Lord because they reside in "the holy hill."
 - i. Cry to the LORD when you can't believe that friends have turned on you.
 - ii. Cry to the LORD when spiritual friends judge your interior motives (soul).
2. The protection God's people value (3-4)
 - a. It is the LORD himself who is your shield. Cry out *to him*.
 - b. Shield "about" me= all around: before, behind, and all around.
 - c. My "glory." Do not take God lightly, while you take your life issues "heavily."
 - d. The LORD himself lifts our heads. Look up into his face.
 - e. Is it Absalom who resides in the holy hill? No, though Absalom is there, it is the LORD who lives there.
3. The courage God's people exhibit (5-6)
 - a. Note the "rest" for David's soul that came while his enemies discouraged his soul (v. 2).
 - b. Though thousands oppose me, I have made up my mind: "I will not fear."
4. The faith God's people need (7-8)
 - a. "Arise, O LORD . . ." is a military term: "Get up and get ready to act . . ."
 - b. David begins with the LORD, and ends with the LORD.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: What opposition do you face today? Are those opposed to you also opposed to the LORD? How do you know for sure?
2. Based on #1, above: Sometimes it appears that your enemy is perched on God's holy hill (they want to appear spiritual as they judge you). But God is in his holy hill at all times. How does this truth bring you comfort today?
3. Based on #2, above: When the LORD lifts the head of his child, he is very close to them. In what way has God lifted your head recently? Are you consistently looking to him first?
4. Based on #3, above: David makes a statement of his will, and a statement about the future when he says, "The LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid . . ." As you look to your future, can you say with David that in the future you will choose to "fear not"?
5. Based on #4, above: Even while his enemy occupies Jerusalem, David prays and waits for the LORD to do act. How do you do with waiting? Why is praying and then taking matters in to your own hands the same thing as being faithless?