



THINK ON THESE THINGS.....

Psalm 5

- 1 Listen to my words, Lord,
consider my lament.
- 2 Hear my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.
- 3 In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.

“You’re just not listening to me!” How often have we used those words to express our feeling to someone that we aren’t being heard. It can be so frustrating when we’ve tried so hard to communicate our thoughts and ideas in as clear a fashion as possible, only to realise that has not been the case. The fact is there is very little that heals us and inspires us like knowing that someone else has truly heard us. When we know that our thoughts, our opinions, our perspectives, and our ideas *matter* to someone else, that can be a life-changing thing.

But, what does this mean when it comes to faith? Verse 3 of Psalm 5 suggests that God hears, but you may be tempted to respond, “Yeah, right!” It can be tempting to view God as the opposite of a hearing God. Our language betrays us here. We say, “It’s all in God’s hands,” or, “If it’s meant to be...” or “If it’s God’s will.” It feels like God decides what God decides and our voices don’t make any difference.

But, that’s not the Bible’s view of God. For example, in Genesis 18 God tells Abraham that Sodom has become evil and destructive, and so God is going to destroy it (remember this is a very ancient story). But, Abraham responds by arguing with God and bargaining with God. He asks God if God will still destroy the city if there are fifty righteous people, and God concedes that God won’t. Then Abraham asks, “what if there are forty five? Or forty? or thirty? or twenty? or ten?” And God finally concedes that if there are just ten righteous people the city will be saved.

The point is not that God wanted to destroy the city. The point is that Abraham argued with God and was *heard*. And the same happened thing with Moses, and some of the prophets. God is a God who hears us.

We really need to know and believe this as we remain hunkered down in our homes. Keep praying, even if it is at a given time of the day (someone suggested saying the Lord’s prayer at midday every day is a good start). That frustration, the loneliness, the not knowingness of what is going on can feel like it is overwhelming.

God is there. God is with us. God is listening. Give it a go – pray....

Breath-Prayer for Today: Lord God, in the eerie silence of what we are all going through right now, you remind that you are with us, listening to our cries and our pleas for help. May we never forget your presence and your longing to be with us.