

Psalms 142:4, "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul."

The experience of the Sweet Psalmist of Israel is one that, at times, breaks the heart of the reader. David as a young man spent his life as an obedient son to his father Jesse, lived a quiet peaceable life in Saul's kingdom and did what he could to help the people of his nation. But when Saul of Kish developed a hatred for David, the people who should have been David's help and comfort, left him to stand alone. The people who should be leaders of truth, would attempt to follow Saul's command to kill David in his sleep (1 Sam 19:11). The men who were figures of truth and justice, would stand idly by as Saul would cast his javelin at David. David in the verse previously cited, would say "no man cared for my soul." David is saying, no one cares enough to do what is right and help him in his time of need. David was able to come to this conclusion by three things that he saw:

(1) The people had forsaken him (Ps 142:4, "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me"). By their lack of faithfulness to friendship and brotherhood, David understood that no one cared.

(2) The people of Israel had failed to fulfill their responsibility in doing right (Ps 142:4, "refuge failed me"). The Lord calls on His people to be good, law abiding citizens. These men, who chased David through the fields and woods, did nothing of the sort, but hounded an innocent man like a dog would scratch at fleas (1 Sam 24:14).

(3) The lack of concern for David's sorrow (Ps 142:6, "I am brought very low"). Men were not concerned about the pain that David was experiencing. David, even in this low estate, could not find compassion with them.

Brothers and sisters, even though the depth of David's experience is one few may face, the principle of testing the level of care finds application in many contexts. Do we care enough? Do we care enough about marriage to be a faithful, responsible spouse and be concerned about the emotional atmosphere of the home? Do we care enough about the workplace to be faithful, responsible employees and be concerned how our attitude will affect the work environment? Do we as Church members care enough to be faithful to the cause of Christ, bearing the responsibility of keeping the commandments of God, while at the same time being concerned about the burdens of others and how our actions may affect them? Do we care enough?

I pray the new year will find us seeking a greater faithfulness in our responsibilities and having a higher level of concern for others, so that none of our brothers and sisters will feel the need to say as David, "no man cared for my soul." Amen!

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