

Talk It Over 45: Bible Study Edition

Teaching Series: *God's Playlist*

Message: *Bow Before the Battle* — Mark Roslund

Passage: Psalm 20

Date: May 25-26, 2019

How to use Talk It Over

This version of *Talk It Over* is designed for groups whose primary focus is studying the Word of God. There is lots of depth in information and questions about the principle passage of the weekend message. This study is designed to be done in 30-60 minutes.

The Main Idea

God's Playlist can help us "reset" and connect to a power beyond our own. In Psalm 20 David takes a different approach to preparing for war, rather than rallying the troops or providing a motivational speech he holds a large prayer meeting.

Warm Up Questions (choose 2 or 3)

- Q1: Have you ever been on a team where one individual (or maybe you, yourself) prepared for competition in a weird or superstitious way?
- Q2: Have you ever witnessed an adult tantrum? What was the feeling at the time by any who were observing?
- Q3: What is your default reaction or emotion to an upcoming stressful event?

Dig a Little Deeper

Psalm 20 is a rich psalm sung with a community as a prayer to God as Israel prepared themselves for battle. It's not just one man's heartfelt plea, but rather the voices of a multitude coming together to petition God on behalf of the king. It was written during King David's reign, a time when battles and warfare were a part of every day life. In our North American, twenty-first century context, battles and warfare can often seem far removed or esoteric. Pastor Mark reminded us of the truths that relate to us as we face our own struggles we can take from this passage:

- Bow before you battle (connect to the Source)
- Fight with an army (immerse yourself in an atmosphere of faith)
- Gain your perspective (compare your battle to God)

Our battles may not be against chariots and horses, but we each face struggles, sometimes with insurmountable odds, where we also need God's help for victory.

Read Psalm 20

Q1: In verse 5, the Psalmist is thanking God in advance for God's salvation. In what context do we use the word "salvation" in the 21st century? What is the Psalmist referring to?

Q2: In both verses 2 and 6, this Psalm refers to God sending help from what seems like a distant place. What words do various translations use to describe this place? How does this contrast with our understanding of God always being present (see Joshua 1:9)? What do you think the Psalmist means when he refers to God sending help from here?

In Bible times, the Sanctuary (Tabernacle, Holy Hill) was a place where God's presence was tangible among His people. How does God make his presence tangible among us today?

Q3: Verse 4 has often been used in defence of God bestowing wealth, houses, fame, and selfish pursuits when we ask. After reading the verse in context, what do you think the Psalmist is referring to?

Q4: This Psalm is meant to be sung as a prayer in community over the king. When have you witnessed the power of people praying together for one purpose? Describe the experience.

Psalms 20 & 21 were written in pairs. Psalm 20 was a prayer before the battle, and Psalm 21 was the prayer after the victory was won. Read Psalm 21 and notice how God answers specific prayers from Psalm 20 in Psalm 21.

Next Steps

When God adds his super to our natural lives, the results are amazing! David is confident in the power of God to overcome his adversary.

Q1: We can often overlook that "champions" (of faith or natural) feel anxiety and distress. Psalm 20:1 says It Isn't a matter of If, but rather when. How do you feel reading verses 1-5?

Q2: Verses 6-8 carry even more confidence with them than the first five verses. Why do you feel the author builds in confidence as he writes?

Q3: Do you have an example from your life where you faced adversity with confidence in God? How did it contrast to other times when you didn't lean on God?

Q4: Pastor Mark brought out three truths from this passage that relate to the battles we face in life today. Which one do you struggle with the most? Which comes most naturally to you?

- Bow before you battle (connect to the Source)
- Fight with an army (immerse yourself in an atmosphere of faith)
- Gain your perspective (compare your battle to God)

Q5: What “battle” are you facing right now? How can we, as your community, pray with you?

Take the time to pray for and with each other, for God’s victory in our battles, and that we would rely on His supernatural power.

Reading Coming Up

Riverwood has embarked on a quest together: to become intimate with Scripture—and with the Good News story that started In the Garden of Eden and continues to this day—by **reading** Scripture. This quest will be 1000 days long so if you miss a day you can catch up and if you start late you can just keep going from where everyone else is. The reading list is available on the Riverwood app but you can also get the monthly bookmark at any of the Welcome Centres in our various worshipping communities. It is recommended that you read from a modern Bible translation. If you do not have a Bible and cannot afford to buy one, stop by the Welcome Centre in your worshipping community and they can help you get one.