

Psalm 119

week 8, v.46

Ps 119:46 I will also speak of Thy testimonies before kings, and shall not be ashamed.

This statement of David's follows the request of God's mercies to be shown towards him in verse 41. And, in verse 45, he says he will walk in liberty. Because of these things, he is able to be bold, specifically in his speech.

speak <dabar> to answer, to declare, to announce, to be a spokesman, to teach

This is not just talking as in a conversation. It is speaking with authority. To answer someone requires knowledge of information or a solution to a problem. Those with some authority make declarations and announcements. A spokesman for something would be a knowledgeable representative. A good teacher has authority or command of the subject they are teaching.

So in what manner is David speaking? Timidity or boldness? How could we assume that he is speaking with boldness?

What is spoken according to this verse?

testimonies <edah> witness

What is a reliable testimony based on? Evidence! What makes a credible witness?

Does a testimony change depending on the audience? Are you bold in sharing who God is and His work in your life no matter the position and importance of the receiver? What is the example we are given in Psalm 119:46?

'before kings' <melek> royalty

What is the difference in sharing God's truths with your neighbors, your family, your co-workers or those officially in charge over you? All these relationships have different effects on my life. One might not significantly matter while another may incur a great cost.

"Hugh Latimer was the son of an English farmer, educated at Cambridge University, and ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1510. ... Though reputed as a preacher prior to his conversion to Christ in 1525, after contact with Thomas Bilney-- another

Cambridge scholar who had come to accept the preeminence of the Scriptures over the preeminence of the Pope-- Hugh Latimer was transformed into a mouthpiece for the claims of Christ over the claims of Romanism. ... Armed with faith in the LORD Jesus Christ for his Eternal Salvation, Latimer used the position of influence that had come to him for the faithful declaration of the Word of God. ...

It is said that Hugh Latimer, with the courage of a lion, approached his immoral sovereign-- Henry VIII-- with a New Year's Day gift, a Bible with the leaf turned down to the passage, "**Whoremongers and adulterers God will judge**" (Hebrews 13:4). ... At another time, Henry VIII called Latimer to preach before his court. With towering unction and the plainest language, Hugh Latimer faithfully denounced the king and his courtiers, ... Enraged, the king demanded that Latimer retract his denunciations upon the next LORD's Day. ...

Entering the pulpit, Latimer ... paused and said:

"Hugh Latimer, dost thou know before whom thou art this day to speak? To the high and mighty monarch, the King's most excellent majesty, who can take away thy life if thou offendest; therefore take heed that thou speakest not a word that may displease! And then consider well, Hugh, dost thou not know from whence comest thou; upon whose message thou art sent? Even by the great and mighty God! Who is all present! and Who beholdeth all thy ways! and Who is able to cast thy soul into hell! Therefore take care that thou deliverest thy message faithfully."

Speaking thus, to the amazement of all the court, Latimer renewed his preaching with even greater zeal and strength. "**O Earth, Earth, Earth, hear the Word of the LORD**" (Jeremiah 22:29). All present were certain that Henry would have Hugh Latimer beheaded; but, the king, subdued by Latimer's earnestness, exclaimed, "**Blessed be God, I have so honest a servant!**" And, though Henry VIII is still identified with the debauchery and treachery that brought him to divorce or behead nearly six wives...he was instrumental in divorcing the influence of the Church of Rome over what would become Protestant England. ... And, what became of Hugh Latimer? Henry VIII was succeeded to the throne in 1547 by his sickly young son, Edward VI, whose short reign ended with his death by tuberculosis and the ascension to the throne of the Roman Catholic, Mary Tudor, later vilified as Bloody Mary. ... Immediately, Latimer was arrested for treason, tried, and consigned to execution. On October 16th 1555, he and fellow Reformer, Nicholas Ridley, were burned at the stake; and, while at the stake, Latimer exhorted Ridley with the prophetic encouragement,

"We shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England as I trust shall never be put out."

Mt 10:18-19 and you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 "But when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; for it shall be given you in that hour what you are to speak.

De 31:6 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."

Ps 22:5 To Thee they cried out, and were delivered; In Thee they trusted, and were not disappointed.

Ps 25:2-3 O my God, in Thee I trust, Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies exult over me. 3 Indeed, none of those who wait for Thee will be ashamed; those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

2Ti 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with [me] in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

Ro 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Mr 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

As a king he would speak to kings concerning the King of kings. He says, "I will speak": prudence might have suggested that his life and conduct would be enough, and that it would be better not to touch upon religion in the presence of royal personages who worshipped other gods, and claimed to be right in so doing. He had already most fittingly preceded this resolve by the declaration, "I will walk," but he does not make his personal conduct an excuse for sinful silence, for he adds, "I will speak." David claimed religious liberty, and took care to use it, for he spoke out what he believed, even when he was in the highest company.

Treasury of David

...there is no excuse for being ashamed, and yet many are as quiet as the dead for fear some creature like themselves should be offended. TOD

How quickly do we jump in to speak of something we don't understand very well ourselves? Could a lack of clear understanding of what you believe keep you from sharing with others?

Fear of offense, fear of consequence, fear of judgment are all things that may get in our way of sharing God's testimonies. Yet, we should fear offending our King above anyone else on this earth.

Do you have friends or family that you will talk with about everything other than your beliefs? What is holding you back, what is causing you to be ashamed of the gospel?

Hieronymus rightly exhorts all Christians: "Consecrate thy mouth to the Gospel: be unwilling to open it with trifles or fables."

Pr 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

David's resolve and example to us is "I will speak". Lord help us to manifest this same boldness for Your glory. The only credential we need to proclaim God's testimonies is the position of being His child.

Pr 14:26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and his children will have refuge.

Pr 28:1 The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Eph 3:8-12 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; 10 in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly [places.] 11 [This was] in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

Ps 27:1 ([A Psalm] of David.) The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?

Ps 56:4 In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can [mere] man do to me?

Are you prepared to confess your faith with boldness to those whom God brings along your path?

### Application Questions

What does it mean in Psalm 119:45 when David says he will walk in liberty?

What is the difference between walking in liberty and being enslaved to something?

When you speak of God's word is it with boldness regardless of whom you are talking with?

Think about the situations that cause you to become quiet or 'ashamed' of speaking the truth. Who are you more concerned of shaming – the One who created you and saved you or persons who need the gospel just like you?

What evidence do you see of God working in your life?

Who is the most credible witness to how God has changed you?

2 Tim 1:8 tells us to not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord. Does your speech represent excitement of God's work and commands or embarrassment? Ro 1:16; Mr 8:38; Pr 29:25

Eph 3:8-12 After reading this section of scripture, pray that God would show you how He would have you apply His truths to your life right now.