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BIB331- Hermeneutics

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Reflection – Week 9

As mentioned in the reading by Fee and Stuart that many Psalmists wrote and expressed deep anger or used violent language as a way of lament in whatever they were going through or feeling. How they describe these feelings is called “imprecatory Psalms” and according to the definitions in Wikipedia it means to “invoke judgement, calamity or curses upon enemies or those perceived as the enemies of God.” In reading this definition it’s deep and strong to think that some of the Psalmist felt this way. I do believe that this is in keeping with Jesus’ teaching because how Fee and Stuart described “imprecatory Psalms” is how many felt that they were going through as they were experiencing troubling times and, in that moment, they were honest, and they shared those feeling with God. They were able to release their anger and deep feelings with God and not with the person that caused them pain or trouble. As humans we’re not perfect to not have these deep feelings as anger. I feel that it’s a sin to take out the anger or pain on the person or people that caused them to have those feelings. But when you’re honest with God and you tell Him how you feel wholeheartedly, you’re not sinning against God but rather letting out with the Him as He would want us to.

I want to be transparent and share a moment in my life just as some of the Psalmist felt and it happened when my ex-husband was unfaithful to me in our marriage. After being unfaithful he also decided to end the marriage to be with the individual that he was unfaithful while being married to me. As much as I felt pain and suffering, I felt during that time, I also felt

anger and I wanted to disclose that anger I was feeling towards my husband at the time. Instead, I disclosed it with God because I knew deep down it wasn't the right thing to do and I knew that God wanted me to talk to Him directly. I drew closer to God, I prayed, read the Bible as a guidance to help me get through my moment of pain, suffering, anger, and despair. I feel that when we as individuals are going through tough or hard moments, we are allowed to let ourselves feel whatever that feeling is, but we must be careful in acting on those feelings. We must also go directly to God and express those feelings unto Him just as many of the Psalmist did and felt as they expressed it to the Lord. It's how Fee and Stuart mentioned in their book "by expressing our anger directly to and through God rather than by seeking to return evil to those who have done evil to us. Imprecatory Psalms harness our anger and help us express it (to God) ..." (Pg. 228)

The book of Proverbs in many ways does teaches us of how we are to live our lives with God, and it is through the wisdom that we receive through God. The wisdom that we have receive through the through God and the Holy Spirit is our guidance as it helps us to discern what is good and bad. As Fee and Stuart say in their book "the book of proverbs is the primary locus of "prudential wisdom" – that is, memorable aphorisms (maxims) people can use to help themselves make responsible choice in life." (Pg. 239) It is based on having a relationship with God and doing God's will whether is helping your neighbor or feeding the poor, those actions are what God expects us to do and through those actions we show people God's love and compassion. Can we live holy lives? We can live holy lives unto God, but at the same time we're not perfect because we are humans and many times we fall or stumble. I don't believe that even we fall, or stumble God will disown us, He will forgive us as we come unto Him humbly and for repentance. As much as we have the Holy Spirit that guides us in God's path we very much have

the Bible as well, and the book of Proverbs serves as a guide just as it was mentioned in the YouTube video *Book of Proverbs Summary: A Complete Animated Story* “so the purpose of this book is to help you develop a set of practical skills for living well in God’s world...” and just as it did back then with God’s people anyone who believed, it serves to help us in our path to salvation.

References:

Fee, G.D., and Stuart, D. (2014). *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Zondervan Academic

The MacArthur Study Bible *New International Version* (2013) Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc.

Bible Project. (2017). *Book of Proverbs Summary: A Complete Animated Story*. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sew1kBIe-W0&t=4s>

Imprecatory Psalms. (2023, March 16). In *Wikipedia*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imprecatory_Psalms