

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Sermon by
Charlie Fiddler
Psalm 86:1–5, 14–17



“Lord Have Mercy” Sermon Notes

“A Prayer of David”

Our text today, Psalm 86, is the only one in all of the Psalms labelled “A Prayer of David” (there are many labelled a Psalm of David, but this is the only Davidic “prayer”). This calls us to think about the whole of David’s life and to consider this as David’s attitude toward God.

1. When you think about David’s life, what do *you* tend to think about?
2. David’s later life shows us a profound journey of repentance and humility. What is your testimony of repentance and humility?

Response to Attack

In this Psalm, we can see that David is under attack, but we can also see that David's focus remains on God and on his own humility, instead of on his circumstances.

3. What was the last time (or a recent time) that you have felt attacked? What made you feel attacked?
4. How did you respond to feeling attacked? How do you wish you responded?
5. How do you think prayer can help us respond better to feeling attacked? Would your prayer look like David’s here?

David and Shimei

The story of David and Shimei can serve as an example of how to respond to vitriol and hatred with grace and humility.

6. Read this story in 2 Samuel 16:5–14. What catches your attention or surprises you in this story?
7. How do you think the people who were traveling with David felt when they saw how the king reacted?
8. v. 14 says “they arrived weary...” Why do you think that responding in grace and humility can be so exhausting?

Jonah

We looked at the story of Jonah and his anger at God’s mercy as a counterexample to David in today’s sermon.

9. Read Jonah 4:1–11. What is God’s “point” to Jonah? How is God merciful to Jonah here?
10. Has there been a time in your life when you were as angry at God as Jonah was?
11. Why do you think Jonah couldn’t get on board with God’s mercy?

Reflection

12. Have there been times in your life that you needed to remember God’s forgiveness, and forget your idea of justice? What were some of these?
13. How can you remember to call to mind God’s goodness toward you before you insist on your own way?

