PSALM 12

1 Save, O LORD, for the godly one is gone; for the faithful have vanished from among the children of man.
2 Everyone utters lies to his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak.
3 May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts,
4 those who say, “With our tongue we will prevail, our lips are with us; who is master over us?”
5 “Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the LORD; “I will place him in the safety for which he longs.”
6 The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.
7 You, O LORD, will keep them; you will guard us from this generation forever.
8 On every side the wicked prowl, as vileness is exalted among the children of man.

DAY 1
Read through Psalm 12 once writing down what you find interesting, what you find helpful, and what you don’t fully understand.

Read through the notes on Psalm 12 in the ESV Study Bible*. Write at least one paragraph highlighting what you learned from the study notes.

Reread Psalm 12, personalizing the Psalm as your own prayer. Write out that prayer.

DAY 2
In 1 Peter 2:23 we read the following about Jesus: “When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”

Peter saw that happen when Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified. Read the account of Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion in Mark 14:43–15:39.

Now read Psalm 12, writing down the reasons Jesus could have prayed portions of this Psalm during his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.
“All the promises of God find their Yes in” Jesus (2 Cor. 1:20). Read verses 5–7 again. Write down the ways that Jesus, through his life, death, and resurrection is the “Yes” to God’s promises in those verses.

Read Psalm 12:1–2. Write a paragraph or two explaining the situation David describes in those verses. (You may find the notes in the ESV Study Bible helpful in understanding some of the language in those verses.) Write down one way the situation David describes is similar to your current situation.

Jesus faced what you are facing. Therefore, he knows what you need in this very moment. Though the Psalm ends where it starts—with the wicked strutting around like kings—David still trusts God and his promises (Ps. 12:6). He starts the Psalm this way: “Save, O Lord.” He walks “by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7).

George Matheson, in his hymn “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go,” expresses a similar future-oriented confidence, even when it seems like wickedness and evil are winning.

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I own,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That mourn shall tearless be.

Write out a prayer to Jesus starting with the words, “Save, O Lord.” Spend some time describing your current situation. Remind yourself of the ways Jesus experienced similar things during his time on earth. Thank Jesus for what he did to place you in the safety for which you long (Ps. 12:5) and guard you forever (Ps. 12:7).

**DAY 3**

In this Psalm, David explains the two-fold danger of boasting and speaking lies.

First, those who attempt to deceive others with their speech eventually deceive themselves. Their judgment is impaired; they begin to believe their own lies. Second, they foolishly consider their false words of greater value than God’s.

Read Psalm 12 again. Focusing on verses 2–4 and 6, write down the specific ways David explains the two-fold danger of boasting and speaking lies.
Pastor Tim Keller said, “Self-deception is not the worst thing that you can do but it is the means by which we do the most terrible things.”

Stop and pray, asking God to reveal places in your life where you have become self-deceived, believing your own boasts and lies. Write down the lies and boasts you have wrongly spoken and believed. Write down the things your self-deception encouraged you to do.

Confess your sins to God, agreeing with him that what you’ve said, believed, and done is wrong. Because of Jesus, God is “faithful and just to forgive” you your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). End your time thanking God for his forgiveness and asking him to give you the faith to believe that his words are of greater value than your words and that his words are always true.

**DAY 4**
Read Psalm 12 again. In the Psalm David prays for others, like the poor and needy in verse 5. He does so with the confidence that God “will keep them.”

Think of someone you know who is suffering because of ungodly oppressors and liars. It may be someone whose reputation has been unfairly marred. It may be someone who was treated unjustly.

As you think about them and their situation, read through verses 1–4. Think how about how hopeless and alone they may feel. Read verses 5–6, asking God to increase your faith in him, specifically as it relates to his care for your friend. Read verses 7–8, asking God to increase your trust in his promises, even when it seems like the wicked are winning and the situation may never change.

Write out a prayer to God on behalf of your friend. Use Psalm 12 as a guide. End your prayer with verses 7–8.

Contact your friend. Let them know what you prayed for them. Consider sending them your specific prayer for them based on Psalm 12.

**DAY 5**
Read through Psalm 12 twice.

Write out at least two paragraphs reflecting on what you’ve learned about God, yourself, and others from Psalm 12. Write out at least one thing you hope to apply to your life from Psalm 12.

Spend at least 15 minutes sharing what you wrote with a trusted friend or family member. If they read Psalm 12 this week, ask them to do the same. End your time in prayer, thanking God for what he taught you this week.
“Purchasing an ESV Study Bible (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Bibles, 2008.) will aid you in your understanding of the Psalms. The first day’s reading each week assumes you will have access to the notes in the ESV Study Bible. The ESV Study Bible is the most comprehensive study Bible ever published. It will help you understand not just the Psalms, but also the rest of the Bible in a deeper way. You can either buy the Bible (amazon.com, search: ESV Study Bible) or purchase online access to the notes at www.esvbible.org.

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