

# Learning from the Petition-Lament Psalms

## Review

### Usual Form / Components

- \*Direct Address
- \*Lament/Complaint
- \*Confidence
- \*Petition
- \*Conclusion

### Sample: **Psalm 54**

#### Address (with introductory petition)

- 1 O God, save me by your name,  
and vindicate me by your might.
- 2 O God, hear my prayer;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.

#### Lament

- 3 For strangers have risen against me;  
ruthless men seek my life;  
they do not set God before themselves. Selah

#### Confidence

- 4 Behold, God is my helper;  
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

#### Petition

- 5 He will return the evil to my enemies;  
in your faithfulness put an end to them.

#### Praise

- 6 With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;  
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.
- 7 For he has delivered me from every trouble,  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

### \***Psalm 13** – Survey Exposition

\*Superscript: A Psalm of David.

#### \*Direct Address & Lament

- 1 How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul  
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?  
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

#### \*Petition \*3-4

- 3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;  
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
- 4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"  
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

#### \*Confidence \*5

- 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

#### \*Vow to Praise \*6

- 6 I will sing to the LORD,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

\*Postscript: To the choirmaster.

## **Some General Observations on the Lament Psalms**

1. Lament & Praise
2. Lament & Faith
3. Lament & Prayer
4. Laments & Christ