SBC Chapel Chris Chia

9 March 2016 ARPC

**The Lord is NOT My Shepherd**

***Psalm 22***

**Topic:** Loneliness

**Subject:** How do we respond when God doesn’t seem concerned about our plight?

**Complement:** Glorify God alone.

**Purpose:** The listeners will honor God in suffering.

# Introduction

### Interest: Familiarity breeds contempt.

### Need: Why does the church favor Psalm 23 over Psalm 22 when Jesus quoted Psalm 22 more?

### Subject: How do we respond when God doesn’t seem concerned about our plight?

### Background: Here we find a troubled believer, as desperate prayer and a silent God!

### Text: Psalm 22

# I. The confusion of unjust suffering perplexes us (1-10).

## The psalmist reflects upon previous generations who found that God delivered them in their time of trouble.

## However, David says here, “I belong to the same God. I’m doing the same things, so why don’t I get the same treatment?” David is a spiritual freak.

## Here is unrewarded trust. Here is unrequited faith.

## This is the humiliated believer—not embarrassed, but humiliated.

## The Dalits in India do that which no one will do, such as carry human excrement on their heads. This is not merely embarrassment, but humiliation.

## He had no other worldview than Yahweh as his God (9-10), so he is not a recent, deathbed convert, as he walked with God since birth. This made his plight even more difficult.

# II. The need of such a believer is for God to help (11-21).

## For the unjust sufferer, trouble is near, help is missing and enemies are savage (11-18).

### Enemies appear in three images:

#### Bulls are incredibly strong.

#### Lions are capable of eating us alive.

#### Dogs are ferocious wolves.

### We experience not just the hostility, but also the brutality of our enemies.

#### People played a prank on a special needs man in Australia by putting a small bomb in his soup. Once he stirred it, is exploded, taking off eight fingers and embedding shrapnel throughout his body.

#### Road rage happens every 4 days in Singapore.

#### Church rage causes huge problems.

## We cry to God for help (19-21).

# III. God is our help now but also the solution for all nations in the future (22-31).

## The God who seemed to be nowhere is now everywhere!

## The news of one country has now become the hope of the world!

## This is the same psalmist who comes to the conclusion.

# Conclusion

### The lonesome, unjust sufferer brings about the worship of the nations (MI).

### The psalm begins with the aching prayer of a lonesome suffer. It ends with universal praise led by the same innocent sufferer!

### The Gospel writers quote this psalm more than any other as depicting Jesus on the cross.

### What to do? Enduring lessons:

#### Prayer is what chaperons the righteous sufferer in our journey of faith.

##### People can pray for us and with us, but in the end, we must pray ourselves.

##### Get people to pray for you, but don’t let that replace your own prayers.

#### The goal of prayer is the vindication of the righteous believer.

##### Suffering makes us look like losers, even though the righteous ultimately win and the wicked lose.

##### Many times in ministry we will do right but look wrong. Jesus was accused of doing wrong: “”If you are the Son of God, come down!”

#### But the greatest goal of prayer is the vindication of God himself.

##### The reason Jesus could face humiliation was because he would glorify God.

##### The only reason we can face the ugliness of men today is to behold the beauty of Jesus.