



river west church

Words Like Silver, Purified Seven Times!

Psalm 12

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Ending on Psalm 12?

This Sunday is the last sermon in our series: “Knowing God in the Psalms.” It’s been a rich time for us in the Psalms. Many people have approached me, eyes gleaming, to tell me how these Psalms have strengthened their faith and increased their love for the Lord.

But now it’s coming to an end. And for the finale, we’re doing Psalm 12. Every person I’ve told about this has raised an eyebrow and responded with a tone of surprise. Are you really doing Psalm 12? So many “all time favorites” you could have chosen, but you’re choosing Psalm 12? You sure?

Yes, I’m sure! Psalm 12 IS an all time favorite, for me! From the day I first dug deep into this Psalm, some twenty years ago, this Psalm has been my guide, my anchor, my lens, my comfort, my joy. I come back to it over and over again. Really!

Dig deep with me!

Psalm 12 is deep. On first reading you may think this Psalm is nothing more than a tirade – David venting his frustration. Maybe too many people let him down and now he’s just angry? Maybe we should just speed read it and move on to a more positive Psalm? But that would be a huge mistake!

Psalm 12 is deep; it speaks to the heart of things. It speaks about what’s broken in our world. It highlights the power of our words. It explores the motivations of our hearts. It celebrates the infinite value of God’s Word of truth. It paints a picture, by way of contrast, that illuminates everything. It’s a beam of light, shining in the darkness of our broken world (and the darkness does not overcome it).

Let’s dig deep this morning! Let’s see how Psalm 12 can shine a light on the whole biblical story. Let’s talk about God, truth, Satan, deception, your life in God’s image, the power of words, the essence of sin, the values of our culture, the impact of technology, the plight of the oppressed, the mission of God, the beauty of Christ, the promise of redemption, and the gift of God’s Word of Truth – like words of silver, purified seven times. And of course, may the Lord shine the light of His truth and grace on each of our own lives. May His Word impact each of us, so that we become people with transformed hearts and transformed speech, speaking the truth in love to God’s glory because of Jesus our Lord.

OK, let’s do all that in 40 minutes. Ready... go...

12 TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO THE SHEMINITH. A PSALM OF DAVID.

- 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.