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Yesterday we continued about series in psalm 22, focusing in on 3 simple verses at the hinge of the Psalm.

Up to this point it's been mostly dark, with a few glimpses of light and reminders of God's past faithfulness. From here on in though the tempo and focus changes as the Psalmist has assurance that God will (or has) rescued him.

We began by noting how the use of Gods name varies as the psalm unfolds. At the beginning and up to v10 he is simply 'God'. There's pain in v1 as he is personal (my) and yet distant. In v8 the covenant name LORD is used - but only on the lips of his mockers. However v19 David does speak to God as the LORD. This is perhaps crucial because its a hint that perhaps he's remembering his powerful covenantal God. The God who rescues his people from oppression in Egypt, and so perhaps the God who can rescue his king, David.  
In v22-24, we split the section in half after v23.

1. **v22-23: Praise The Lord with me...**

David says to the Lord declares the Lords name to his people, and by his name he means his character and goodness and power. David - as if he's making good on a vow - shares his testimony and calls his people to praise The Lord with him.

We noted the horizontal aspect of our praise as we need each other to keep each other going. Just as David calls his people to praise, so as we share testimony, we can urge each other to keep going and keep praising.

David's response is for those who Fear The Lord to praise him (and revere and honour him). It's as if this new experience of God rescuing him, opens his eyes again to the awe that God deserves.

2. **(v24) ...For he has rescued me**

David does not praise just for the sake of it, but in response to what The Lord has done for him. Our God is a God who listens, but more than that he answer and so He has heard his cry, the distance that David felt has now gone. Well so we can have a confidence and trust in God that he can and does and will answer our prayers to rescue us in line with his will.

When life is hard and like David we feel afflicted, we can trust this, but we can also hope that because Jesus died in our place, so we can have true hope. Because he took these words upon himself, and was forsaken, so we won't be.  
This is a real Psalm of hope for the Christian at Easter because we are joined to Jesus both in the darkness of Good Friday, but also the light and hope of the new Day on Easter Sunday.

***Here are a few questions to start discussion off - as always, feel free to adapt for your group***

- what has struck you most as we've studied Psalm 22?
- are you glad that the feel and emotion of the Psalm has turned a corner? Why?
- Why does David's use of God's name LORD matter?
- What does he call the people to do in these verses? Why?
- Do you ever call others to praise God with you? Why or why not?
- Why do you think he talks of fearing, honouring and revering God here? What does this mean?
- Do you fear / honour / revere God personally? How does that show?
- Do we fear / honour / revere God as a church? How does that show?
- in what ways do these verses help us in the midst of hardships?
- how do they point us both to Good Friday and Easter Sunday?