



## Church at Home for Abridge

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Further resources for worship and reflection

PSALM 86

(The words are attached on the next page)

(Based on Easy English Bible)

*Verse 11-- Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name* – is at the heart of this Psalm.

David realises that he is ignorant. He thought he could manage, and yet he found himself in a terrible situation. He admits that he needs to be *taught*.

For David, he needs to humbly ask God to teach him his way. So that *he may walk in God's truth*. Once God has taught him a lesson, what is his response? To *walk in God's truth*. Today many people think of religion as a quiet, inner belief. Religion is what you do with your quiet inner life, when you are safely tucked away at home. What you do with your outer life is not important, being religious is about “believing” on the inside.

But for David, having heard God's truth, his response isn't simply to “believe”. But it's to walk. God's truths are like a path which we are called to walk along.

David ends this profound verse with a final petition: *unite my heart to fear your name*. Given that, what is the petition? That God would *unite his heart* to fear God's name.

When we aim our lives God-ward, our lives will have a real sense of purpose and meaning. When facing difficult decisions, we can wisely discern the best path since we are God centred.

**Personal Reflection.** Even if you aren't suffering at the moment, then praise God! Unfortunately, you can be sure that at some point in your life, you will. These lessons are ones to practice while things are going well, so that in times of hardship you'll be ready.

So:-

- do you acknowledge your need to be taught by God, or are you smugly confident in your own abilities?
- do you see the need to actively walk in God's truth; as opposed to simply staying put or just believing in your mind?
- finally, are there roles in your life which you realise aren't united under the vision of fearing God? or loving God?

## Psalm 86.

### A prayer of David.

- 1 Hear me, Lord, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.
- 2 Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.  
You are my God; 3 have mercy on me, Lord,  
for I call to you all day long.
- 4 Bring joy to your servant, Lord,  
for I put my trust in you.
- 5 You, Lord, are forgiving and good,  
abounding in love to all who call to you.
- 6 Hear my prayer, Lord;  
listen to my cry for mercy.
- 7 When I am in distress, I call to you,  
because you answer me.
- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;  
no deeds can compare with yours.
- 9 All the nations you have made  
will come and worship before you, Lord;  
they will bring glory to your name.
- 10 For you are great and do marvellous deeds;  
you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me your way, Lord,  
that I may rely on your faithfulness;  
give me an undivided heart,  
that I may fear your name.
- 12 I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my  
heart;  
I will glorify your name forever.
- 13 For great is your love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the depths,  
from the realm of the dead.
- 14 Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God;  
ruthless people are trying to kill me—  
they have no regard for you.
- 15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate and  
gracious God,  
slow to anger, abounding in love and  
faithfulness.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
show your strength in behalf of your servant;  
save me, because I serve you  
just as my mother did.
- 17 Give me a sign of your goodness,  
that my enemies may see it and be put to  
shame,  
for you, Lord, have helped me and  
comforted me