

Mayday...Mayday

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The Meaning of “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday”

- Have you ever seen SOS in a movie? SOS or “Save our souls” was the universal distress code during the Morse code era, but the telecom industry ushered in new challenges. The world needed a clearer distress signal.
- Mayday is a distress call to signal a life-threatening emergency, usually on a ship or plane, although it may be used in a variety of other situations.
- “May-day” comes from a French word that means “Help me.”
- Mayday first came into English in 1923. There was a lot of air traffic between England and France in those days, and evidently there were enough international problems over the English Channel that both parties wanted to find a good distress signal that everyone would understand.
- Guaranteed the call sign “Mayday...Mayday...Mayday” rang out on Dec 7, 1941.

Psalm 20 was written during a time of national distress for King David and the people of Israel

Psalm 20:1–2 (ESV)

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! 2 May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

Psalm 20

- A prayer for victory for King David in a time of national distress
- It describes a beautiful expression of solidarity between the king and his people as they seek the favor of God (a royal psalm)
- V. 1-4 The people pray for King David
- V. 5 The people are confident that their prayers are heard
- V. 6-7 The king expresses the assurance he has received
- V. 8 The people pray for David again

(1) The _____

Psalm 20:1 (ESV)

1 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

- Trouble is knocking at the front door!
- The people appeal to God with inference to a time when God showed up in the past
 - The “God of Jacob” refers to when God delivered the Israelites from Egypt
 - When trouble knocks at your door, where do you turn?
 - We remember who God is, what God has done, and what God promises to his people

Psalm 20:2 (ESV)

2 May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

- This is an appeal for God to dispatch His very presence to the issues at hand
- In a military operation, “support” includes food, supplies, weapons etc.

2 Peter 1:3a (NLT)

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.

- What support do you need right now?
- May the presence of God be your peace!
- May the provision of God meet your every need!

Psalm 20:3 (ESV)

3 May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! Selah

- The people appeal to the king’s devotion and commitment to God (worship services)
- We don’t earn God’s favor, but in this moment, the people remind God they have been faithful to do what God required of them

Psalm 20:4 (ESV)

4 May he grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans!

- The people are petitioning that God would honor the desires and plans of David’s leadership (implies trust in the character of David as king)
- Do our desires and plans honor the Lord?
- If God granted us the desires of our hearts, would those desires be honorable and pleasing to God?

Psalm 20:5 (ESV)

5 May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the Lord fulfill all your petitions!

- Moses raised a banner to the Lord after war with the Amalekites (Ex 17:15-16)
- Raising a banner signifies victory

(2) The _____

Psalm 20:6 (ESV)

6 Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand.

- Faith – anticipation that God is going to show up big!
- Do you believe God answers prayer?
- David has some history with God as his advocate (lion, bear, Goliath)
- Where is your hope?
 - Man? Money? A political party? A president?

Psalm 20:7 (ESV)

7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

- God’s ways are not our ways
- We would have picked one of David’s other brothers
- God is our hope
- He can deliver with his mighty right hand

- The verb for trust here reads “keep in memory or to ponder”

(3) The _____

Psalm 20:8 (ESV)

8 They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. 9 O Lord, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

- The people close in confidence
- They close in big faith
- Do we pray or talk about needing to pray?

Ministry Moment:

Mayday...Mayday...Mayday...

If you are in a hard place, a lonely place, a crisis, sick, needing a miracle, hopeless, stressed, depressed, or facing a battle of some kind, stand right where you are and look at me.

In the name of Jesus Christ...

1. In times of trouble, may the Lord answer your cry.
2. May God keep you safe from all harm.
3. May he send you help and strengthen you.
4. May he remember all your sacrifices.
5. May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed.
6. May the Lord answer all your prayers.

May this be the day that Lord brings breakthrough in your life.

Mayday...Mayday...Mayday! Lord help us!

ANSWERS:

(1) PEOPLE

(2) KING

(3) PEOPLE