

Psalm 63

Turning a Wilderness into a Worship Experience

Intro: Think for a moment of What is the most difficult thing you have ever gone through

A)Remember how painful it was ? Pit in your stomach - Remember the tears?

B)Remember how alone you felt? Remember the frustration

1)Remember wanting to do nothing but sleep but not being able to sleep at all.

C)If you have been through that type of experience 1)You have a glimpse of what David is going through as he writes Psalm 63

Setting: David is on the run

A)His son Absalom has just orchestrated a Cue – ultimate betrayal to take over his father’s kingdom.

B)David’s Chief Adviser - Ahithophel has joined him

C)2 Samuel 15 David gets word – Sorry to inform you of this but the men are with Absalom

1)The Cue had seemingly been successful

C)David and a small band of people flee to the wilderness – actually a desert

Read

¹O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You, in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.

This is a strong physical metaphor he gives, of being thirsty in a desert w/no sign of agua!

A)Place he would have fled to is that area near the dead sea –

B) It is one of the most barren regions...ON EARTH!

1) Israel trip we spend two days there

C)Many things can create this sense of Spiritual thirst in our lives

- It can come as a result of loss or crisis in our lives.
- It can come during a time of personal sin or failure.
- It can come as a result of being removed from other believers.

Ever been dehydrated – awful - There is only one thing a dehydrated person WANTS – Water

A)And there is only one thing that a person who is spiritually dehydrated NEEDS – God

B)That is how David feels David was longing for connection w/God!

C)Psalm 63 gives us a beautiful picture of how to turn a wilderness – dry – miserable

1)How to turn a wilderness into a worship experience

D)If you were with us last time – Psalm 84 we talked about Valley of Baca –

1) we dig deep – find refreshment in the Lord

E)Valley times are not a time to quit or flesh out

1)Valley times are a time to DIG DEEP

Psalm 63 is an illustration of what digging deep looks like.

A)See Because David longs for connection w/God...he commits to 4 things:

B)Seek, Praise, Remember, Cling,

#1 Seek God! – How?

¹O God, You are my God; early will I seek You

A)Now the NLT and ESV translate Early as earnestly

Which is it

B)Both and – Early and earnestly speak of priority -above all else

C)Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness - Key word? FIRST

1)Not if I have time – PRIORITY IN MY LIFE

EARNESTLY also carries the idea Seeking with an expectation

A) David says **I am seeking you to see your power and your glory.**

B) Listen friends we need to seek the Lord with an expectation of him showing up.

C) Be so bold to say – I think some the reason why he doesn't show up is we are not expecting him too

We are like the church in the book of Acts 12 the church is praying – Lord release Peter

A) The Lord answered their prayer – Peter shows up at the Prayer meeting

B) Rhoda – Peter is at the door – no way -

C) Encourage you to seek him with an expectation

D) Look for him in the circumstances that surround you?)

E) You might be surprised that he is nearer than you even imagined

So #1 Seek God

#2 Praise God V.3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life- my lips shall praise You.

A) **Praise is Shavahk = To Get loud**

B) Here is why I think this so important for the wilderness times

C) **Get loud – drown out the noise in my head**

D) Pray out loud – talk out loud – sometimes it is to drown out the noise

Let me ask you this question: Do you think that David felt like praising God in this moment?

A) He is concerned about the safety of his family – he is concerned about the kingdom

B) He needed to strategize (Many other things to do)

C) But David knew the importance of getting vertical before he started working on the Horizontal

D) Pastor Chuck used to say – **When you find yourself in a situation where you don't know what is going on. – Fall back on what you do know.**

Here is what David knew: **Your lovingkindness is better than life- my lips shall praise You.**

A) This is what David is falling back on - there is something even better than life, - **the Love of God**

B) The word he uses For Lovingkindness is *hesed*, “covenant-love.”

C) God's love is about who He is – not how we perform – God made a covenant with us in Jesus

Hesed stresses the faithful continuance of God's love.

A) God's love is steady and unchangeable, which is why it is better than even the best thing in life,

B) Life itself can be lost, even though we value it and try to protect it at all costs.

C) However, the covenant-love of God can never be lost.

The apostle Paul wrote, “**For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord**” (Rom. 8:38–39).

D) In view **of such great love**, isn't it strange that we spend so much time trying to find satisfaction in other things?

E) Your **LOVINGKINDNESS** is better than life **THEREFORE** - my lips shall praise You. –

Continuing with this heart of praise –

Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

David is revealing something else here – that is a part of his praise

A) Bless is Barak – means to kneel – taking a posture of Humility in coming before the Lord

B) Lifting of the hands speaks of adoration but also speaks of a Posture of humility and surrender

C) So part of David's praise to the Lord involved his own surrender to the Lord

Surrender of the Kingdom – His life – His family

A)The surrender of all of his possessions – everything that he has worked hard to build over the years

B)He can do so because he knows deep down in his heart that – God is faithful

C)He is rejoicing and resting in God’s covenant Love

1)That his God is the God who keeps his promises

And get this – He has no idea what the future holds

A)He has no idea if restoration is in his future.

B)But he is trusting his life and all he has to the Lord in this moment

C)That my friends is what we need to do as well!

D)David – Sought God, Praised God

#3 Remember God

When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. 7 Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

A)Note when he remembers God? - Night watches.

B)Where? – on my Bed.

C)How? – BY Meditation.- I meditate on You in the night watches. {Meditate = to think back and ponder

What is David remembering? -He is remembering God’s past faithfulness in his life - Because You have been my help

A)**Journal – look back –**

B)**we can be so short sighted** – See only the difficulty right in front of us

C)Israel “Egypt was so great – leeks & Garlic”

1)Guys you were slaves working in the hot sun – making bricks and building pyramids

D)Remember – Look back – break open the Journal

1)Folders – things to praise the Lord about

2)**Have Disappointments? – Yes!** – But way more illustrations of him being faith – His grace!!!

E)So Seek God, Praise God, Remember God – **past faithfulness in your life**

#4 Cling to God

8 My soul follows close behind You; your right hand upholds me.

ESV **My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

Josiah Clings to me – when scarred – or hurt

A)Looking for comfort

B)This speaks of finding refuge in the Lord

C)We cling to God when we truly believe that he is all we have – our life is in Him

D)If we don’t believe that we will look for other things to cling to.

“that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days;”
Deut.30:20

Notice the results of David doing these 4 things

A)1st Satisfied in v.5 – . My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

B)He goes from being thirsty in V.1 – Dehydrated to being completely satisfied in the Lord

C)Think again for a moment of David’s situation.
1)He had been forced to leave behind him everything he possessed in this world.

He was now a beggar, dependent for his next meal on the kindness and generosity of friends

A)And yet his heart is full

B)That is a very sweet place to be in – many of never experience – we live so dependent on ourselves

C)Oregon days – step of faith – are we going to have enough to buy groceries this week?

D)But there was a sense of contentment – because of just being satisfied in the Lord

E) I am exactly where the Lord wants me to be -- perfect will -- satisfied

1st Result -- Satisfied

2nd result - He feels covered by the Lord in v.7 -- therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

A) Wings is the picture of the Hen with her chicks -- protection --

3rd result - He is upheld by God in V.8 -- Your right hand upholds me

A) Right hand in that culture was also understood as a symbol of strength

B) Your strength is holding me up (picture supporting me - in the midst of this weak *time*)

C) Grace is sufficient -- power is made perfect in weakness

4th Result He is confident in God -- V.9-11

9 But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

10 They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals.

11 But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

David had something Absalom did not have: the promise and pledge of God that the throne was his.

To drive David permanently off that throne Absalom would first have to drive God off His throne. That is why David looked for victory.

John Phillips

Maybe you have had an accuser or someone one or something that has come against you --

A) In order for them to succeed - They have to knock God off the throne.

B) That is not going to happen -- God will always be on the throne.

C) Large and in Charge.

1) His plan -

Now we will have our difficulties -- In this world you will have tribulation

A) But be of good cheer - I have overcome the world

B) That we might be able to say like Paul 2 Corinthians 4

⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹ We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed

¹⁶ So we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

Dig deep -- Find refreshment? How turn a wilderness into a worship experience?

- Seek God
- Praise God
- Remember God
- Cling to God