

My Soul Thirsts for You

Psalm 63

A Psalm of David



Intro:

- The significance of the Psalms
 - Teach us we can be honest with God about how we feel
 - Teach us how to respond to trials and hardship
 - Remind us of the truth about God, his enduring faithfulness and his undying love for us
 - Reorient our lives and thoughts by reminding us of who God is and what he has done
 - Give us words and phrases to help us respond in praise and worship (many Psalms are meant to be sung)
 - Outcome: reaffirmation of our faith and trust in God
- Story of David & Absalom

Psalm 63

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is
no water.

² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

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⁵ My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

⁶ when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

⁷ for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

⁸ My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

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⁹ But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
¹⁰ they shall be given over to the power of the
sword;
they shall be a portion for jackals.
¹¹ But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

1. Thirst for God

- David is seeking God in a time of trouble (vv. 1-2)
 - Affirms who he belongs to, “O God, you are my God...”
 - Affirms his great desire or “thirst” for God (imagery)
 - This thirst is the result of his time in the “sanctuary” (place of public worship) as David worshipped God (v.2)
- Situation:
 - David is alone in prayer and worship but longs to worship God in public worship
 - David’s own son is trying to kill him and take his throne but his focus is not on his own mistakes as a father, but on God
 - Of all the things a person on the run would long for (bed, home, family, etc.) David’s greatest longing is for God
 - David’s trouble drove him to God instead of away from him

1. Thirst for God

2. Reorientation – Remembering who God is and what he has done (vv. 3-7)

a. Praise to God

- Instead of complaining, David begins to praise
- Praises God for his power, love and glory

b. Remembering God's Faithfulness

- As David recounts his experiences with God, his praise comes from "joyful lips"
- Remembering God's faithfulness produces thankfulness and joy even in a desperate trial
- Remembering who God is reorients our perspective

1. Thirst for God

2. Reorientation – Remembering who God is and what he has done

3. Reaffirmation of Faith & Trust

- Remembering God and his works causes...
 - David to “cling” to God (affirming God as his only hope and salvation)
 - David to understand the peril involved for those who oppose God while reaffirming God’s love and care for those who love him
 - David to reaffirm his personal love and devotion to God (But the king shall rejoice in God...)

What we can walk away with...

1. It Begins with Thirst

- Your desire for God before the storm, will determine your response in it
- Desire for God will always be accompanied with the craving to worship him with his people
- Our regular worship with our community of faith helps prepare us for hardship and loss
- When you “go to church”, you are not just going to a service to sing songs and hear a sermon, you are entering a space that is intentionally created to meet with God and experience his glory

What we can walk away with...

1. It Begins with Thirst

2. Hardship Drives us to God

- When things don't go your way, who do you go to first?
- When life crashes around you, do you look up or do you tend to naval gaze?
- Our thirst for God will drive us to him *first* in times of trouble

What we can walk away with...

- 1. It Begins with Thirst**
- 2. Hardship Drives us to God**
- 3. Remember who God is and what he has done**
 - Counter-balances how we feel with truth
 - Satan's tricks...
 - **FORGET...** about what God has done and go with how you feel right now
 - **DOUBT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS...** just because He's been faithful in the past doesn't mean he will now
 - **LOOK DOWN...** The problem is with you so you need to do something to fix it

What we can walk away with...

- 1. It Begins with Thirst**
- 2. Hardship Drives us to God**
- 3. Remember who God is and what he has done**
- 4. Reaffirmation of Faith & Trust**
 - It's amazing what happens when the truth of God invades our space... It gives us hope!
 - As hope rises so too our faith and trust are redirected or reoriented towards God

A Prayer from A.W. Tozer...

“O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, ‘Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.’ Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have wandered so long.”

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