

Series: A Summer in the Psalms

C.R. 6-19-22

“Worship in the Wilderness”

Text: Psalm 63: 1-5

Intro: There is some debate on when David wrote this Psalm. Many believe it is when he was being pursued by King Saul. Others say it is when his own son Absalom was out to get him. Either way, David had many troubled days.

It is in one of these situations that David pens this Psalm. A time when he was most likely exhausted both mentally and physically and is in a wilderness both literally and figuratively speaking, he makes a clear decision to worship. What an incredible lesson for us to learn.

Today in our summer in the Psalms we will see David worshipping in the wilderness, and the lessons we can learn from it.

1) He Pursues God (v.1).

- a. Appreciating God as God, it is entirely reasonable to seek Him, and to seek Him as a priority of the day. The thirst of David’s soul demanded to be satisfied early in the day.
- b. “What first lays hold of the heart in the morning is likely to occupy the place all day. First impressions are the most durable, because there is not a multitude of ideas to drive them out or prevent them from being deeply fixed in the moral feeling.” **(Clarke)**
- c. The word early does not just mean early in the morning (though that is part of it), it also implies eagerness, and immediateness.
- d. David is teaching us here that we need to start our days with God.
- e. Manna had to be harvested in the morning.
- f. Earnestly: every part of his being longed to spend this time with God.
- g. To be honest the reason so many are so discontent is because they have yet to see that God is what they are truly longing for.
- h. David would make a sanctuary right where he was.

- i. Yet he knew that's God's sanctuary was not only a place, but also a spiritual concept that could be entered by faith no matter where a person was.
- j. "Our misery is that we thirst so little for these sublime things, and so much for the mocking trifles of time and sense." **(Spurgeon)**

2) He Proclaims God. (v.3-4)

- a. My lips shall praise You: In light of David's experience of God's great love, he determined to vocally praise God. David thought that he would be ungrateful and rude to not praise and thank the God who loved him so greatly.
- b. David is saying that the love of God is better than life itself.
- c. As David is facing the backlash of former friends or family, he knows that he is loved by God.
- d. To dwell with God is better than life at its best; life at ease, in a palace, in health, in honour, in wealth, in pleasure; yea, a thousand lives are not equal to the eternal life which abides in Jehovah's smile." **(Spurgeon)**
- e. The result of this great love is to proclaim it. To tell of him openly, not in secret. To proclaim the name that is above all names.
- f. Note in verse 5 he does this with joyful lips. Not a forced thing, but a natural overflow.

3) He Praises God. (v.3-5)

- a. When we proclaim God we are telling about Him, when we praise God we are talking to Him.
- b. In light of David's experience of God's great love, he determined to vocally praise God. David thought that he would be ungrateful and rude to not praise and thank the God who loved him so greatly.
- c. "May I ask a question of every professed Christian? Have you spoken with God this morning? Do you allow a day to pass without converse with God? Can it be right for us to treat the Lord with mute indifference?" **(Spurgeon)**
- d. Thus I will bless You: David did not mean this in the sense that a greater person bestows a blessing on a lesser. David meant this in the sense that it blessed and honored God when His creatures praised Him and thanked Him appropriately.

- e. While I live: We know that we are going to be praising God in Heaven, all will, but we must praise Him now. For a lost world to see, for our family to see, for other to see and know where our allegiance is.
- f. I've never seen a dead man get up and praise God.
- g. David said I will lift up my hands, I will open my mouth, and I will praise.
- h. One day the preaching will end, the evangelism will be over, and the prayer services will cease, but Praise will never end.