

# Psalm 63

## Desperation and Satisfaction

Image Church // Summer in the Psalms// Week 9

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### Intro

Good morning Image Family, so good to be back with you- I missed you guys!

Hey excited about what's going on in the life of our church- we've got a lot of new faces in here...

2 **NEW** things coming up that I want you to be aware of:

- Men's Breakfast July 30th, 8-10 am **Slide** no graphic, just words.
- **Abide**: *A night of prayer and worship*: August 25th - 7:30pm
- Exciting days ahead!

I've been on a little bit of an **Elon Musk** kick lately, watching interviews with him and watching his take on all these random things...

- It's like these interviews are like *what is the most random thing I could ask Elon's thoughts on...*
  - He never gets rattled... Just answers them in stride...
  - Honestly, it seems like the dude is always sleepy so he doesn't even have the energy to get rattled...
- One of them I saw was *how to be useful*.
  - Of which he had a mathematical equation to give the answer!
- Such an interesting guy...
- But if there's one thing that this he's always being asked about it's getting to Mars...

- This dude is desperate to get to Mars... Apparently, he lives in a rental house on the property at SpaceX so he can lock in on this... He's sunk a ton of money in, he's willing to do whatever it takes- he's fixated... He's desperate for Mars!

Let me ask you this, what are you desperate for?

- What is your deepest and greatest desire??
- What is it that you long for?
- What is the one thing that your site is set on this morning?

I think if we're honest very few of us, if any, could honestly say that it's God that you're most desperate for...

My prayer is that God would change that this morning, that the Spirit of God would move in a powerful way and that we would get a fresh and renewed sense of who God is, and that we would see that He's the one that we need to be desperate for!

Appeal...

- I think we miss just how much we need Him...
- I think we settle way too easily
- I think we lean into going through the motions of religion...
- I think we are missing out on so much...

Images family we want to be, ***we need to be a church that is desperate for God...***

- This is bigger than any agenda...
- This goes beyond our gathering ...
- It's bigger than going through the motions...
- It is a deep desire that takes precedence over everything!

There are a lot of things that we want to do as a church, and there's an impact that we want to have, but if we miss this then we quench our ability to ever do any of that...

This morning we're going to be looking at another Psalm of David, and we're going to get a glimpse into what desperation for God looks like, and then we're going to see what that desperation leads to!

Let's look at Psalm 63...

## Psalm 63

**Context:** David is in the wilderness he's fleeing his son Absalom who's trying to overthrow him...

1 God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you.  
I thirst for you;  
my body faints for you  
in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.

David's in the wilderness-tough spot- doesn't ask to get His kingdom back... Doesn't even ask for help...

- He worships...
- He desires God and God alone...

He doesn't see God as a means to get something else...

He understands that God is the one thing that He needs...

I want you to hear this:

**Often times our deprivation reveals our desperation...**

- It's when we don't have what we want that reveals what we think we really need...
- David knew what he needed... Do you?

Some of you are in the wilderness like David... Going through something hard...

- Where is it that you're turning?
- Do you see God as a means to end the wilderness or do you see Him for who He is?

**Example:** In February of this year we got the hardest news we've ever gotten as a family... Braxton's diagnosis... Smith Kingsmore...

God brought me to a place where I had nowhere else to turn but Him...

- This is a type of wilderness that lasts for a lifetime...

Maybe that's you- Would you turn your eyes like David did... **He had no idea if he would ever get out...**

- Would you pray this, would you recite this, and allow your heart to be open to this...
- Watch what God does...
- Would you allow him to reshape the way that you view Him, would you see how He responds to this plea!

**Here's where I've been most convinced this week as I've worked through this...** I think we don't experience more from God because we want Him as a means to something else...

- A means to fix our circumstances- a means to get us out of the wilderness...
- We miss Him for who He is...

For others of you may be the wilderness you're in isn't something physical, but it is spiritual... You feel far off and disconnected spiritually...

- You've been distant, been inconsistent...
- Been distracted by the things that don't matter...

Would you hear the cry of David...

It's not that he had what he was asking for, he was asking for it because he didn't have it!

- **You don't manufacture spiritual hydration you receive it through the things of God...** We'll see that in a little bit...

We often struggle in the spiritual drought, in the spiritual wilderness because we're waiting on God to do something magical as a sign, or all of a sudden change our feelings... Maybe He will do that...

But the reality is that He's working on your heart so the way this plays out may look different than you expect... **You need to stop waiting and start worshipping!**

- That's what David is doing here!!

There's another group of you that I want to press on...

**Though this text speaks specifically to a time of despair in the wilderness, its truths are not limited only to that...**

There are some of you that are in a different wilderness situation than David, you're in a wilderness situation, but it's more like **Isreal's wilderness situation** where they failed to see God for who he is... They failed to trust Him and follow Him and worship Him alone above all else...

**Some of you are just complacent...** You have no fire, you have no desperation for God...

- You see God as a means to a better life, to get what you want, so your affiliate just enough to feel good...
- Just go through the motions, maybe...
- You say that you're a Christian but your life doesn't reflect it legitimate...
- Participate in the things of God when it's convenient for you but you're not desperate for God...

You don't see Him as your source of life, as your source of living water... If you really did, He would characterize your life, but He doesn't.

- You are so caught up in day-to-day life and your work...
- You're trying to be someone, you're trying to get somewhere... you're not desperate for God!

See, the reality is that we should assume the same posture of desperation David has here regardless of whether or not you're going through something difficult...

The answer for you right now is anchoring yourself in **verse 1!**

- Going back to God, and asking what David asked for here...

I don't want to stretch this passage too far, but everything in this life is dry and desolate land...

- God is what you need, that He's the only thing that will ultimately satisfy your deepest thirst!
- Everything else will just make you more thirsty...

*So David makes his plea and then what he does next... Verse 2:*

**2 So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.**

He's in the desert...

- **Sanctuary** remembers back to the place of **corporate worship** where he saw evidence of the strength and glory of God...
  - What they would do and how they would do it...

Would that be true of us...

He's been reminded of the strength of God... the glory of God...

*This reminds him of another reality that leads him to say this in verse 3...*

**3 My lips will glorify you because your faithful love is better than life.**

Now at face value, this seems crazy... There is nothing more valuable than life...

But He understands something that we so often miss... He really understands the love of God...

- Seen it in his own life with his affair and murder...

**Hesed:**

- Used **246** times in the OT,

*It's a powerful word that wraps up in itself an entire cluster of concepts—love, mercy, grace, kindness, goodness, benevolence, loyalty, and covenant faithfulness... The loyal love of God, His unfailing kindness and faithfulness that never shifts or changes. It's absolute.*

### **Flesh out God's covenant love...**

*Grace: Lean into Philip Yancy, what's so amazing about Grace...*

- Scandalous...
- Counter to everything that we are...

**Example:** *Indian tribes in the midwest: when they kill something, they lay some of their tobacco down in front of it...*

- They say that you can't take something without giving something back...

The gospel is the opposite- just lays down his life- no one took it... And he says there's nothing that you can give me...

### **GOSPEL**

*And that overflows into this: **verse 4**...*

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

David goes further in his posture of worship... **BTW** worship is not a song but a posture of our lives...

*I got to park here for a second...*

Lift up my hands: *All my baptist are getting nervous...* This is a form of worship... This is why we sing about this, this is why we should practice this...

It is an outward sign of an inward belief... It is a picture of surrender...

**Example:** enemy is captured- hands up... I have nothing left, I am yours now...

- This is what we do when we lift our hands...
- We can do this when we sing, but that's not the only time we do this... We do it when we pray...

*It feels weird...* Does it feel weird when you reach out your hand to shake someone else's hand?

*Now watch what David's worship leads him to... **Verse 5***

**5** You satisfy me as with rich food; my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.

**Rich food:** fat and fatness...

- The best of the best- the fat was the part of the animal left for God... He knew what He was doing!

He's comparing *the power of the divine presence of God to the satisfaction and nourishment of best of the best food.*<sup>1</sup>

Now we have a shift here from **Desperate** to **satisfied**...

<sup>2</sup>**Example:** Dating Ashley... Desperate to see her satisfied when I did, desperate to see her again... This is what's happening with David...

**When you are most desperate for God you will find that you are most satisfied in Him!**

- It is a beautiful cycle...

And when we get out of this cycle we **repent**, we turn back to God, we cry out **verse 1** and we enter back into the cycle!

*Then David says this in **verse 6**...*

<sup>1</sup> Marvin E. Tate, *Psalms 51–100*, vol. 20, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1998), 128.

<sup>2</sup> Example riffed from Bryan Loritts

6 When I think of you as I lie on my bed,  
I meditate on you during the night watches  
7 because you are my helper;  
I will rejoice in the shadow of your wings.

**Our hearts don't naturally want to be desperate for God...** This is the key... **Being desperate for God comes as an overflow of knowing God...**

- Paul: Phil. 3:10... I want to know you
- We never arrive...

**Meditation:** *this is what keeps him in this cycle... it is what keeps him centered on the love of God... it is what keeps him anchored...*

*As he meditates on God and is reminded that God is his helper and that he's under the shadow of his wings... It leads him to **verse 8...***

8 I follow close to you;  
your right hand holds on to me.

Notice that his activity is an overflow of where his heart is...

- Some of you see a lack of change in your life- that's a heart issue, not a hands issue...

**And it leads David to finish by putting his confidence in the Lord...**

9 But those who intend to destroy my life  
will go into the depths of the earth.

10 They will be given over to the power of the sword;  
they will become a meal for jackals.

11 But the king will rejoice in God;  
all who swear by him will boast,  
for the mouths of liars will be shut.

**Desperate...** What are you desperate for??

Would you taste and see that the Lord is Good...

Would you seek Him above all else...

Would our desperation lead us to a place where we find deep satisfaction in who God is...

## Conclusion [VAMP]

I don't want us to overcomplicate Christianity...

**Challenge:** let **Psalm 63:1** be your prayer for the next week... Don't recite it as an incantation- orient your heart around it... **Ask** this if God...

1 God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you.  
I thirst for you;  
my body faints for you  
in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.

And watch what God does...

Appeal to the non-Christian...

Appeal to the Christian...

- You may not be where you want to be, you may not have what you want you may be going through something... But know this you have access to all that you need...
- Some of you need to repent...

Pray...