

5. DAVID'S DESTINY — "The king will rejoice in God."

Psalm 63:9-11

"But the king will rejoice in God... while the mouths of liars will be silenced."

The Psalm ends with David **still in the wilderness**. Faith doesn't pretend trouble isn't real; it trusts that trouble isn't final.

David entrusts his enemies, reputation, future, and ultimate justice to God.

The lesson: God will have the final word. I don't have to settle every score, answer every accusation, or make everything right myself.

Reflect: What am I carrying today that I need to entrust to God's justice, timing, and sovereignty?

THE GREATER SON OF DAVID — JESUS CHRIST

1 Peter 1:3-9; Romans 5:8

David knew God's steadfast love, but we have seen its fullest demonstration in Jesus:

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." — **Romans 5:8**

Sometimes the wilderness exposes the equation we have quietly been living by:

GOD + _____ = ENOUGH

God + health.

God + security.

God + family.

God + success.

God + people's approval.

God + the future I planned.

The wilderness can teach us to erase what we've put in the blank until we increasingly discover:

GOD = ENOUGH.

Psalm 63's journey:

DESIRE: "My soul thirsts for You."

DELIGHT: "Your love is better than life."

DEVOTION: "My lips will praise You."

DEPENDENCE: "Your right hand upholds me."

DESTINY: "The king will rejoice in God."

A Question to Take Home

What might God be teaching me to thirst for in the wilderness I'm walking through?

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you."

— **Psalm 63:3**

What a Wilderness Reveals

Psalm 63

9-13-26 / Mark McCartin

"A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah."

I. WHEN EVERYTHING FALLS APART

The Backstory - 2 Samuel 14-17

2 Sam 15:6 *"So Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel."*

2 Sa 15:13-14 *A messenger soon arrived in Jerusalem to tell David, "All Israel has joined Absalom in a conspiracy against you!"¹⁴ "Then we must flee at once, or it will be too late!"*

2 Sam 15:30 *David walked up the road to the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went. His head was covered and his feet were bare as a sign of mourning. And the people who were with him covered their heads and wept as they climbed the hill.*

II. SOMEWHERE IN THE WILDERNESS

A love Better Than Life – Psalm 63

1. DAVID'S DESIRE — "My soul thirsts for You." v 1-2

Ps 63:1 *"You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water."*

"You, God, are MY God." David begins with relationship. Everything around him has become uncertain, but his relationship with God has not.

"Earnestly I seek You." God isn't merely one item on David's list of needs. The wilderness has clarified his priorities. God has moved from the top of the list to becoming the list.

"I thirst for You." David's physical surroundings become a picture of his spiritual condition. As desperately as a body needs water, David recognizes that his soul needs God.

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." — **Psalm 42:1**

John 4:13-14 *"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

John 7:37-39 *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of **living water** will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. We're all thirsty.*

The Lesson: The wilderness often exposes the things we have been looking to for what only God can ultimately provide.

Reflect: What am I presently telling myself I *must* have in order to be okay, content, secure, or happy?

A wilderness prayer: *"God, more than I want out of this wilderness, teach me to want You in the wilderness."*

2. DAVID'S DELIGHT — "Your love is better than life."

Psalms 63:3 *"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you."*

The word translated "love" is hesed—God's steadfast, faithful, covenant love.

People changed. David's circumstances changed. God's love did not.

"YOUR LOVE IS BETTER THAN LIFE."

"I've compared it all—and God's steadfast love is better."

"Neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." — Romans 8:38-39

Knowing God's love vs. experiencing God's love

"Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge."
— **Ephesians 3:18-19**

Reflect: Do I merely believe that God loves me, or am I learning to live as though His love really is better than everything else I depend upon?

Further Reflection: When You're Still in the Wilderness

3. DAVID'S DEVOTION — "My soul will be satisfied."

Psalms 63:3-5 *"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you... I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods."*

David moves from **thirsting** (v. 1) to **satisfied** (v. 5)—yet nothing about his circumstances has changed. Absalom is still pursuing him. David is still in the wilderness.

The lesson: God does not have to change our circumstances in order to satisfy our souls. Experiencing God's steadfast love produces worship even while the wilderness remains.

Reflect: Am I waiting for my circumstances to change before allowing myself to have joy, contentment, or praise?

4. DAVID'S DEPENDENCE — "Your right hand upholds me."

Psalms 63:6-8 *"On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night... I cling to you; your right hand upholds me."*

When trouble keeps David awake, he deliberately turns his thoughts toward God. He remembers God's past faithfulness and takes refuge **"in the shadow of [His] wings."**

David clings to God—but ultimately realizes that **God is holding onto him.**

The lesson: Sometimes God allows our strength to run out so we discover the strength underneath our strength.

Reflect: When worry takes over my thoughts, am I rehearsing my problems—or remembering the character and past faithfulness of God?
