



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

The Night is STILL His: Faith When You Can't See

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Psalms 14, 44, 74, 104, 134; Acts 16

There are moments when faith feels simple—when you can see what God is doing, when the path is lit, when obedience seems to “work” the way we thought it would. And then there’s the other kind of season: the night. Not just inconvenience-dark... but soul-dark. The kind of darkness where the questions get louder than the answers, where you’re trying to reconcile what you know about a faithful covenant God with what you’re living through right now. That’s why this title matters: **The night is STILL His.** Not because the night feels good. Not because the night makes sense. But because darkness doesn’t cancel ownership. It doesn’t remove God from the throne. He hasn’t left the room.

That’s why Acts 16 is so powerful. *“But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”* (Acts 16:25) Midnight praise. Imprisoned, not because they were rebellious. Not because they were compromised. They were in prison because they were faithful—because they obeyed the Holy Spirit who redirected them into Philippi. So here they are, in chains, in the dark, and they pray and they sing. And the captives listen. That’s the frame for these Psalms: what do we do when we can’t see? We learn to cry out and praise in the night—because the night is still His.

1. REMEMBER WHAT YOU’VE HEARD WHEN WHAT YOU’RE SEEING DOESN’T MATCH

Psalm 44 begins with memory—covenant memory. *“We have heard with our ears, O God; our fathers have told us of a work You did in their days, in days of old.”* (Ps. 44:2) The psalmist is doing something really practical: when the night consumes your perspective, you anchor your soul to what God has already proven. He recalls the conquest of the land and refuses to let the story become, “Look what **we** did.” *“For it was not by their own sword that they took possession of the land... but it was Your right hand... the light of Your face, for You favored them.”* (Ps. 44:4) He stacks the confession: *“You are my King, O God... Through You we push back our foes... For I do not trust in my bow, nor can my sword save me.”* (Ps. 44:5-7) That’s faith talking before the feelings show up.

And then the night hits: *“Yet You have spurned us, rejected and humiliated us... You make us retreat before the enemy... You made us a taunt.”* (Ps. 44:10-15) That’s what darkness does—it makes you feel like God has stepped away from the battle. It makes you ask, “How is this happening if You’re with us?” And then comes the hardest part: *“All these things came upon us, and we did not forget You... Our heart did not turn back.”* (Ps. 44:18-19) That’s the struggle Job had. Because sometimes suffering is discipline; sometimes it is consequence. But **not always**. Sometimes you’re in chains because you were faithful. And Ps 44 teaches us what to do when you can’t connect the dots: you don’t stop talking to God. You don’t fake it. You don’t spiritualize your way out of honesty. You pray the night-prayer: *“Awake! Why do You sleep, my Lord?”* (Ps. 44:24) And you cling to the only thing you can cling to when you can’t see: *“Arise! Be our help. Redeem us for the sake of Your chesed.”* (Ps. 44:27)

2. WHEN THE RUINS ARE REAL, WORSHIP ANYWAY: THE DAY IS HIS, AND THE NIGHT IS HIS

Psalm 74 takes us into a different kind of night: the rubble-night. The sanctuary is desecrated, carved work smashed, holy places burned. The psalmist cries, *“Why have You cast us off forever? Why does Your anger smolder against the flock of Your pasture?”* (Ps. 74:1) This is not theoretical pain; this is looking at what used to be beautiful and calling it “perpetual ruins.” And he pleads covenant language

again: *"Remember Your congregation, which You purchased of old... where You dwelt."* (Ps. 74:2) In other words, "Lord, we're not asking because we're impressive. We're asking because we are Yours."

And then right in the middle of devastation, the psalm pivots into worship—like Paul and Silas at midnight. *"Yet God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the land."* (Ps. 74:12) The psalmist starts naming the God who breaks seas, crushes chaos, sets boundaries, establishes order. And then he drops one of the most stabilizing lines in the Psalms: ***"The day is Yours. The night also is Yours."*** (Ps. 74:16) If the night is still His, then the night isn't proof of abandonment. It's a location where God can still be worshiped, sought, trusted, and obeyed. So the psalm ends with bold pleading: *"Rise up, O God, and defend Your cause...."* (Ps. 74:22) Even without resolution, the conversation continues. That's faith when you can't see—staying in the conversation.

3. GOD IS IN THE RIGHTEOUS GENERATION: PRAISE HIM IN CAPTIVITY, AND STAND IN THE NIGHT

Psalm 14 names the atmosphere of a world that acts like God isn't real. "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" (Ps. 14:1) And that denial has a flavor to it—corruption, devouring, consuming. The psalm says evildoers "consume My people as they eat bread." (Ps. 14:4) That's what captivity feels like. That's what oppression feels like. It's personal and it's painful. But in the middle of that, the psalm declares something that keeps you from collapsing: "For God is with the righteous generation." (Ps. 14:5) God isn't just looking down from heaven; He is present in the midst of His faithful ones. So even if you feel surrounded, even if you feel swallowed, you are not alone in the dark.

Then Psalm 104 widens the lens and says, "Yes—there is a God." Not only is He Creator and Sovereign—He cares. He orders the rhythms of the world, and even the night has boundaries in His hands. "You bring darkness, so it becomes night... The young lions roar for prey, seeking their food... But when the sun rises, they gather and lie down in their dens." (Ps. 104:20–22) The night isn't chaos without God; it's a time He governs. And then Psalm 134 takes that truth and turns it into a call: "Behold, bless ADONAI, all servants of ADONAI, who stand by night in the house of ADONAI." (Ps. 134:1) That's the invitation for the people of God: don't wait for the sun to worship. Don't wait for clarity to bless Him. Stand in the night. Lift your hands. Bless His name. And receive the night-blessing: "May ADONAI bless you from Zion, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Ps. 134:3)

CONCLUSION

Psalm 44 gives language for the night when you can't explain your suffering. Psalm 74 gives language for the night when the ruins are the consequence of sin, and you're living in what's been torn down. Psalm 14 tells the truth about the darkness around us—people who live as if "there is no God," and the damage that does. Psalm 104 reminds us that God is still God over creation and still caring, even when it's dark. And Psalm 134 calls us to become a people who worship in the night. Not because we're pretending. Not because we're numb. But because faith means we refuse to let darkness reinterpret God's character.

Some of you are in the night, and you're trying to decide what the night "means." You're tempted to believe it means God is gone, God is angry, God is finished with you. But today, the Holy Spirit is confronting that lie: **the night is still His.** If you've been drifting—trusting in your bow, your sword, your control—come back. If you've been crushed and you don't even know why, bring Him the honest Psalm 44 prayer and ask for help. If you've been in consequences, don't hide—return to covenant mercy and ask Him to restore you. And if you're simply weary, hear the call of Psalm 134: stand by night in the house of ADONAI. Lift your hands again. Worship again. Pray again. Right now, tell Him: "ADONAI, I can't see—but I trust You. Redeem me for the sake of Your chesed." (Ps. 44:27)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Which “kind of night” are you in right now: the confusing night of Psalm 44, the rubble-night of Psalm 74, or the surrounded-night of Psalm 14?
2. What does it look like for you to “remember what you’ve heard” when your emotions are arguing with you? (Ps. 44:2-7)
3. How does the statement *“The day is Yours. The night also is Yours”* reshape your view of darkness? (Ps. 74:16)
4. Where do you feel tempted to interpret the night as abandonment—and what would it look like to replace that with trust?
5. Practically, what is one way you can “stand by night” this week (worship, prayer, obedience, community confession)? (Ps. 134:1-2)

CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI, Maker of heaven and earth, we bless You. We confess that You are King of old, and that You are still working salvation in the midst of the land. Teach us to remember what we have heard—what You’ve done in days of old—when what we are seeing doesn’t make sense. When we are crushed and confused, meet us with Your chesed. When we are in ruins, remember Your covenant and restore what has been broken. When we are surrounded by darkness and godlessness, remind us that You are in the righteous generation.

Give Your people midnight faith—the kind that prays, the kind that sings, the kind that stays faithful even when we can’t see. Make us servants who stand by night in the house of ADONAI. And may Your blessing rest on every weary one today, from Zion, the Maker of heaven and earth.

B’Shem Yeshua, In Yeshua’s name, amen.