

Face-to-Face: Finding All You Need in God's Presence

Seeking God

Psalm 63:1

We start a new series today in the book of Psalms, chapter 63. The book of Psalms is a collection of 150 songs by a series of authors, but scholars agree that David wrote 70-85 of them during various seasons of his life.

The introduction to Psalm 63 says that David was in the wilderness of Judah during one of the darkest periods he would ever experience. What happened?

- **Sin:** David took another man's wife &, to cover it up, had him killed. Rape, abuse of power, murder & deceit had caused it.
- **Drama:** David's family was a mess of sexual immorality, deception & a lack of fatherly leadership leading to one of his sons killing another
- **Betrayal:** David forgives his son & brings him back to Jerusalem, but his son leads a rebellion to take the throne and turns David's most trusted advisor, his nephew & the leadership of Judah against David. David's only option was to run away.
- **Desolation:** On the shores of the Dead Sea (lowest elevation on earth), David was once again hiding out in caves to avoid capture.

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God & not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." **2 Corinthians 4:7-9**

Whether this season has resulted in spiritual growth or regression, this series is designed to deepen your intimacy with God by getting you Face to Face with Him. And we start it together...

"Oh 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."
Psalm 63:1

Main Idea: An Intimate Encounter with God Begins with Seeking Him

- I. Seek God Passionately** – *"Oh God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you..."* **vs. 1a**

"...for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists & that he rewards those who seek him." **Hebrews 11:6b**

"The longing of these verses is not the groping of a stranger, feeling his way towards God, but the eagerness of a friend, almost a love, to be in touch with the one he holds dear." **Derek Kidner**

"Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." **Matthew 5:6**

"Possession breeds desire. Full assurance is no hindrance to diligence, but is the mainspring of it." **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

- II. Seek God Primarily** – *"...as in a dry and weary land where there is no water."* **vs. 1b**

"For cross to the coasts of Cyprus & see, or send to Kedar & examine with care; see if there has been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, & hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water." **Jeremiah 2:10-13**

"Only after God, therefore, let us pant. Let all desires be gathered into one."
Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"But seek first the kingdom of God & his righteousness, & all these things will be added to you." **Matthew 6:33**

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

Are you thirsty for God? If so, in Jesus, he will fill you to overflowing no matter your circumstances. If not, be honest about it and ask God to give you a deep yearning for Him, because you are not satisfied with anything else. God is the only one who can empower you to seek him passionately and primarily!

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *1001 Humorous Illustrations* – Michael Hodgkin (1994)
- *The Treasury of David* – Charles H. Spurgeon (1689)
- *Psalms* – George A.F. Knight (2001)
- *Commentary on the OT: Psalms* – Carl Keil & Franz Delitzsch (1996)
- *Psalms 1-72: Intro & Commentary* – Derek Kidner (1973)
- *The Message of the Psalms* – Michael Wilcock (2001)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Exploring Psalms: Volume 1* – John Phillips (1998)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *Matthew Henry's Commentary* – Matthew Henry (1994)
- *Dehydration* – Benjamin Wedro, MD www.MedicineNet.com