

Summer in the Psalms

The songs that Jesus sang

Strong, strong love– Psalm 103

July 31, 2022

Join us as Clive Bowsher opens up Psalm 103 and reminds us of the freedom that has been bought for us by our Saviour, whose everlasting love holds us fast.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- David speaks early on about not forgetting the Lord's benefits. Why do you think he does this? As you scan the Psalm as a whole, which of his benefits are you most in danger of forgetting?
- In the message, Clive described the Lord's steadfast love as 'strong, strong love'. What is stronger than this love? What difference would there be in your life if you took this to heart?
- As he drew to a close, Clive showed us the role sung worship plays in our capacity to stand through trials. In other words, the more we give ourselves to him in song (especially when we're 'not feeling it') the more secure our hearts become. You might say, we sing out as if 'our souls depend on it'. *Do you sing in this way? If not, why, and what changes might you need to make to bless the Lord with all that is within you?*
- In v.4 the LORD crowns his people. The story of the crown is a fascinating thread through Scripture: it is the Son's by right, and yet in becoming man he laid it aside. Suffering death for us all, he is now, even more so, 'crowned with glory and honour' and yet chooses to share it with his people. Read these verses in light of Hebrews 2: 9, and allow your heart to well with praise and worship.