

## Dealing with Disappointments

### I. Slide1 Intro: Dealing with Disappointments

A. The Psalms ... where emotions meets truth.

B. What do you do when you have disappointments in life? What do you do when you are disappointed *with God*? When disappointment *sours* our love for God?

1. *Maybe* you didn't get the job. *Maybe* that college you were applying for rejected you. *Maybe* you lost the baby.

C. *We all love the stories*: I was sick, I prayed, God healed me. I needed a job, I prayed, God gave me a job. The baby shouldn't have made it, we prayed, God healed her. I wanted a spouse, I prayed, God gave me one.

1. *But* what if your life sounds more like: *I was sick, I prayed, God still hasn't healed me. I needed a job, I prayed, I'm still looking.* (this *isn't* what they write Christian Movies about)

2. What we're about to read is devastating to *real people* in *real time*. Those dealing with funerals, widowhood, barrenness, job loss, Covid etc.

3. When we don't understand *God's place, or His pace, in my case*.

D. *Our Psalm of Lament*, takes us on a *downward spiral of disappointment* with *God Himself*. Let's look at its 5 Sections:

### II. Slide2 [1] WE HEAR OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO OTHERS (1-3)

A. Sure, you bless others in times past.

B. So I have heard what you've done in others, but also I've seen it in my own life.

### III. Slide3 [2] WE REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO US (4-8)

A. Sure, you blessed me in times past. But what about now?

- B. So not only have I heard what you've done in **others**, **and** have seen it in **my own life**, **but** I don't see You doing those things today, and we feel **God's Betrayed us**.

#### IV. Slide4 [3] **WE FEEL GOD HAS BETRAYED US (9-16)**

- A. In a fallen heart, feelings of betrayal can turn our **tongue** into a *sword*.
1. Look at the emphasis on *what God has done*. It's His fault!
- B. Maybe in the circumstance you find yourself in today, you look up and feel like God is shrugging his shoulders saying, *I don't know*.
1. **But God I wasted 3 weeks on this!** Maybe tonight you need to hear him loud and clear, *I own you! You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* [msg - Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for?] 1 Cor.6:19,20
    - a) I'll *waste* 3 months, or 3 years, or 3 decades of your life if I want to.  
Moses it was 80 (*no*, it wasn't a really a waste) [40 in Egypt. 40 in Midian]
- C. So not only have I heard what you've done in **others**, **and** have seen it in **my own life**, **but** since I don't see you doing those things today and feel **You've Betrayed us**. This causes us to feel **Self Righteous**.

#### V. Slide5 [4] **WE FEEL SELF RIGHTEOUS (17-22)**

- A. Vs. 17 is the most mistaken/messed up verse in the OT.
1. **We** have been faithful, **but** **You** have been unfaithful!
  2. A lot of us then start to think ... here I am laboring. Investing time, I invest energy, invest tears, invest prayers. **We** start thinking to our self, recognizing ourself to be a sinner sure, **and** yet believing *I'm a pretty good person*. God I'm trying to do a hard mission in a hard place. **God I** deserve your help.
- B. So not only have I heard what you've done in **others**, **and** have seen it in **my own life**, **but** since I don't see you doing those things today and feel **You've Betrayed**

us. This causes us to feel Self Righteous, but it also makes us cry out in Desperation.

## VI. Slide6 [5] WE CRY OUT IN DESPERATION (23-26)

- A. (23,24a) God, get out of bed! Splash some water on your face. Rise. Come. Redeem
- B. What could it mean for God to inspire a passage of the Bible that doesn't resolve and allow it to end this way, without Him answering.
1. God inspires the sons of Korah to not only feel these things, but to pen these very words, to include these accusations against His faithfulness.
- C. Slide7 Let's look at 3 things true about God. Things He's going to do, what He does, and we see it in the Psalms immediately surrounding it ...
1. In Ps.42:5 *Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.* In Ps.42:11 (Sons of Korah, say it again). In Ps.43:5 (again).
    - a) So Ps.42,43 in summary: The world is broken. My soul is shaken, but hope in God.
    - b) So Ps.44 in summary: The world is broken. My soul is shaken. But the application is different, it's rise up oh God.
    - c) So Ps.45 in summary: The King will rise. The King will rule. So rest in God.
      - (1) Who is this King? - in Heb.1:8,9 (where it quotes 45:6,7) it's Jesus, whose throne is forever & ever & ever.
    - d) In Ps.44 Was it not Jesus who was the servant that was rejected (9)? Was it not Jesus who was disgraced (9)? Was it not Jesus who was made like a sheep to slaughter (11)? Was it not Jesus who was sold for a trifle (12). Was it not Jesus who had shame covering his face (15).
      - (1) And this Jesus, died on the cross for our sins. Was buried in a grave and rose again. Did this in order to redeem us with His covenant steadfast love.

e) What do we do with this?

### D.3 Applications for our Life.

## VII.Slide8a [1] GOD RECOGNIZES THAT DISAPPOINTMENT IS PART OF THE RELATIONSHIP

A. Ps.44 is an affirmation *He knows how we feel.*

B. Isaiah 55:9 *For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*

1. This is not only an *accurate* statement, it is a *sympathetic* statement.
2. He knows we are in a relationship with *Someone* that we cannot understand His wisdom, and His ways, and the complexity of what He's all about.

C. Slide8b *Disappointment is to be expected in every relationship where at least one sinner is involved.* [Did you know ... if your spouse was perfect you'd still have a problem with them. Why? Because God is holy/perfect and we often have problems in our relationship with Him. He disappoints us]

D. Application: Cry out to God. Cry out to God in desperation.

1. No matter how strong our disappointment may be, it is no license to accuse God of wrong doing, or rebel against God in sin.
2. I urge you to fight the impulse of your flesh. And don't sin to punish God! [Thinking that you are punishing God who is holy, is actually only driving a deeper wedge into your own heart].

E. We notice with the Sons of Korah here, that they are still crying out to God, even in the midst of their disappointment. Their face is still Godward.

## VIII.Slide8c [2] HE REMINDS US OF HIS LOVING RESCUE

A. (26) Steadfast love *hesed* - His loyal love, His covenant love.

1. And send not a little dingy, not a 1/2 blown up rubber raft, not a pair of toddler floaties that barely keep our noses above water.

But send your Coast Guard, *Your ultimate Offshore Patrol Cutter Rescue Ship, The Messiah*, to save us.

a) Yes you've given us little *mini-rescues*, but what we desperately need is the *Messiah!*

## IX. Slide8d [3] GOD RESTORES OUR JOY TO SPEAK OF HIS LOVE

A. Gods *steadfast covenant love* is the *fuel* that leads Him to make a covenant with sinful people, to *rescue* them and *keep* them in-spite of their *sin*. And it's this love that the sons of Korah appeal.

B. Read the last verse of 45 *I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.* 45:17

C. Slide9a Wrap Up: Disappointment, never respects the moment.

1. Disappointment never says, *I'm so sorry, I didn't see you were dealing with these other things. I'll come back later.*
2. Nope, disappointment barges in announced, at the worst times, threatening to silence our mouths.
3. My challenge for us is ... *do not wait for it to pass* in order to *sing*, or to *worship*, or to *share*, or to *pray*.

D. Slide9b Real life is about *real people*, with *real disappointments*, who take those disappointments to the *cross*.

1. So let's cause His name to be *remembered*. Proclaiming God's faithfulness *even when* you don't *feel* like it. *Which is not fake ... it's faith*
2. It's saying *You are worthy*, even when I do not understand. And I *trust You, more than* I trust myself. So, what's the secret? ...

a) Paul serves up his *secret sauce* in Philippians, *I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything*

*through Christ, who gives me strength.* Phil. 4:11-13

E. Keywords: covenant, cross, faith, hope, Jesus, remembrance, resurrection, righteousness, sin.