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Sermon Outline

Inside Out: Exploring the Psalms

Dealing with Doubt

Psalm 73

May 13-14, 2018 Matt Murphy

Doubt...

is complex, and doubt is common.

invites us into a process of growth.

can lead to stronger faith, not weaker.

Looking Back

Inside Out: Exploring the Psalms ***Dealing with Doubt*** *Psalm 73*

Doubt. It's almost a bad word in church these days. It makes us feel uneasy when someone close to us is wrestling with deep questions about God and life (or when we ourselves are wrestling!) But when we doubt, we're in good company. The Bible is full of characters who wrestled with doubts about God, including Asaph in Psalm 73. His journey is instructive for us. It teaches how to view and work through our own doubts in a way that can lead to even stronger faith, over time.

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree, consider/contemplate)

It's not doubt that is toxic (to faith), but unexpressed or unexplored doubt that is toxic.
~Kara Powell

Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.
~Paul Tillich

Working It Out

1. Read Psalm 73. Slowly.
2. Why do you think having doubts about God can be a source of shame for people?
3. Have you struggled with doubts about God? Are there doubts you have about God right now? If you feel safe to, please share.
4. Doubt invites us into a process of growth. Which of the three steps that Matt discussed (deconstruct your doubt, immerse yourself in community, compare "footholds") most resonated with you?
5. What's a step you can take towards processing your doubts or inviting others to?

Looking Ahead

Inside Out: Exploring the Psalms ***Song of Security*** *Psalm 46*

The Psalms are private expressions of personal faith intended to be performed publicly. This song of security praises God for his presence in the instability of life that brings peace at all times. We can remember that God is our might fortress, our strong refuge, our exalted tower in times of fear and trouble.

1. Read Psalm 46 prayerfully, observing the movements and transitions in this song.
2. How does the beginning and end of this Psalm parallel or mirror truth about God?
3. Why does the Psalmist praise God in this song? If you were re-writing this song, why and how would you want to praise God?