



**Are We There Yet?
Longing to be with Him yet Doing Life Day by Day
Psalm 63**

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I remember growing up, that there were several things my sister or I could do that would drive our folks crazy on road trips. We didn't go on any long vacation trips or anything like that, but once and awhile we would drive the two hours to go and see all of our grandparents. Most of them lived in the same little town so it was something, when it was announced we were going, that we looked forward to. And yes, we asked are we there yet, we would indeed be told no and then be given some assignment to do as we went down the road.



I do remember my Great Granddad Brown was the first to go home. He was saved three years before he died, and I loved to be around him.

All I remember though is one day he wasn't there anymore and I started asking about him on every trip. Where is grandpa, when can we go see grandpa, and on and on. Mom finally told me we wouldn't see him again until Jesus came back. So, guess where I went with that. The very next trip, I asked "has Jesus come back yet so I can see Grandpa?" And yes, I did indeed, I did ask that on every single trip for quite sometime. I didn't know the Lord, none of us did at the time, but what Mom told me set up an expectation of anticipation for the Lord to return. And as a young boy, I wanted Him back right now. I still do by the way.

That is what the topic of this psalm is. The longing in the heart of the believer to be with the Lord. As we grow in Him, the desire to be with Him, whether in prayer or physically, just grows stronger. Are we there yet?

I have conversations every week with folks who are wanting Jesus to return today yet are busy serving Him until He does return.

I guess you could say, David is asking the Lord in this psalm, are we there yet? Can I be with you? Let's look at our text.

Psalm 63:title-11

"A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. **God, You are my God; I shall be watching for You; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and exhausted land where there is no water. So have I seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and glory.** Because Your favor is better than life, My lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul is satisfied as with fat and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches, For You have been my help, And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to You; Your right hand takes hold of me. But those who seek my life to destroy it, Will go into the depths of the earth. They will be turned over to the power of the sword; They will be a prey for foxes. But the king will rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him will boast, For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped." (NASB 2020)

As the psalm says, David writes this as he is somewhere in the wilderness of Judah. What that means is he is most likely to the south and east of his home and in the sparsely populated desert and hill regions leading towards the Dead Sea. This may not necessarily mean he is on the run as he writes this.

When he was nothing more than a shepherd, he would have gone to this area frequently with the sheep. That may be the background or again it could also be while he is on the run from King Saul or from his own son, Absalom. We do know this psalm had an impact on the early church as it was "the morning Psalm of the ancient church with which the singing of the Psalms was always introduced at the Sunday service." (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 421)

David is looking out over an area that has water, only when it rains, and is green, only when it rains. Vast portions of where he is at is desert.

I can see him getting up early in the morning to spend time alone with the Lord and as the sun rises, he is looking off in the distance.

Psalm 63:1

"**God, You are my God; I shall be watching for You;** My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and exhausted land where there is no water." (NASB 2020)



As followers of Jesus Christ, how do we begin each day? Are we watching for Him and how He shows up each day for us?

As he looks forward to the new day, he is meditating on the Lord. Whatever the situation is in his life at the moment, shepherding, on the run, it really doesn't matter to David, he is beginning his day with the Lord. This is not unusual for David, this is how he starts his day no matter what is going on in his life. What we see is this, if he is under stress at this time, he is watching and waiting on the Lord. If he is not under stress, he is watching and waiting on the Lord.

Here in these last days of planet earth, as we watch what is going on around us, we too find ourselves waiting and watching for the Lord.

The secret to not being all up in arms about the news or what is going on in the culture or how lost it seems the culture is; it is to begin the day with the one who loves us, knows us, and never changes. And as David looks out of the landscape, he draws a comparison from the reality around him. Again, pretty much desert and with no rain, dry.

Psalm 63:1

"God, You are my God; I shall be watching for You; **My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and exhausted land where there is no water.**" (NASB 2020)

He is literally in a dry place and there truly is no water unless it rains or there is a spring somewhere. I remember looking at across the desert in Nevada as the sun came out and was amazed at the life that was there in the early morning hours. Desert turtles were still moving around, birds, and a fox tried to introduce himself to me and was shocked to find out I was there. They were looking for places to be when the sun was higher in the sky, and the temperature would push up well over 100. But as you look at that scene as the sun rises, the majesty of God becomes very real. Shadow to light to serious heat, all in a matter of minutes.

And when it does rain, the rain does indeed soak in, but the impact disappears quickly. Too much rain, flash floods.

There are times in our life where we too feel as if we are in the desert. There is indeed life all around us but there seems to be nothing for us. We long for refreshment but there is none. David is waiting on the Lord, and so are we. We need refreshment that only He can provide, and as a result, we too find our souls thirsting for Him.

We see all throughout the scriptures the command to wait on the Lord. Here David is reflecting the reality of what that looks like in real time.

Waiting on, longing for the Lord, is what David is doing, and we also will indeed have those dry spells in our life where we wait as well.

Isaiah 40:28–31

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? **The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.** Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but **they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**" (ESV)



Did you catch that? As we wait on the Lord, no matter how dry it seems, we know that our God, the creator of everything, does not get tired or thirsty like we do. We are hungering and thirsting for Him to show up and here in Isaiah, we are told that as we do that, we are strengthened. David Guzik points out for us how that happens.

“How do we receive this strength from the LORD? We receive it as we wait on the LORD. The idea behind wait on the LORD is not a passive sitting around until the LORD does something. Yes, God gives us strength; but we don’t expect it to come as if He were pouring it into as you sit passively. He brings it to us as we seek Him, and rely on Him, instead of our own strength. If we are weak, it is because we do not wait on the LORD!” (Guzik 2000, Is 40:29-31)

The point of this passage from Isaiah is this, there are those who think they are fully equipped and can stand the wait because they are young, vigorous and believe they can power on through it. That is not going to be possible. You cannot do this kind of waiting on your own. This is why Jesus told us He would never leave us and also why we have the Holy Spirit in us.

1 Corinthians 1:26–29

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. **But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.**” (ESV)

I have learned over the years that as long as I think I can do it on my own, He will continue to show me that I can’t. When I give up, then He can indeed work through me. It is all about Him and not me.

1 John 5:4–5

“For whoever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. **Who is the one who overcomes the world, but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**” (NASB 2020)

If you find yourself in the wilderness, the first thing to do is acknowledge God is still there with you and firmly place your eyes on the Lord. Many times, the wilderness is right at the beginning of a trial, or even drier the further into the trial we go because we have not ensured that our faith is an active faith. We think we can do it on our own. There is the possibility we have also withdrawn from fellowship with other believers.

In other words, we are learning that God is all you need as He removes everything else, we were leaning on. He will peel all of that away. Our first move is to return or reaffirm that our relationship with Him is a personal one and as we talk to Him and mediate on His word, we are watching for Him. We need to reestablish communication.

By the way, this dry lack of communion state with the Lord is not resolved by staying away from the flock. There are those today who think they can tough it out on their own, none of us can. If you have not been fellowshiping with others and for whatever the reason, are not involved in the life of being ministered to or ministering to others in the church. You are going to be spending a long time drying out.

Every time I have counseled someone who tells me they feel far from God, the first thing I notice is they have removed themselves from the church. They are not gathering together with anyone at all. We are sheep. Sheep are herd animals and to be healthy sheep, we need to be around other sheep. It is how He made us and how He has us grow. The brave Christian going it alone is a fiction from Satan.



David is talking about first thing in the morning, but the idea here is that as we are going into a trial, early, at the outset of it, seek Him. The longer we put off seeking Him and the longer we put off being in fellowship, the drier and direr it gets.

Proverbs 27:17

“As iron sharpens iron, So one person sharpens another.” (NASB 2020)

Yes, fellowship is important and a great preventative. David is dry because, he is not in fellowship, he knows that and he is going there later in the psalm.

Hebrews 10:23–25

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (ESV)

Psalms 63:1–2

“God, You are my God; I shall be watching for You; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and exhausted land where there is no water. So have I seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and glory.” (NASB 2020)

And there it is, a recognition on the part of David of some of the reason why he is dry. He is unable to go and fellowship with others as he has in the past. He is meditating on the Lord, recognizing how dry he truly is in the wilderness and he wants to be with the Lord. His heart desires to be with the Lord right now and as we grow in the Lord, we will find our hearts will also do the same. Paul discovered that.

2 Corinthians 5:6–9

“So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him.” (NLT)

David knows this. He recognizes that what is happening to him is a prompting from the Lord to intentionally put him into a situation to move him closer to the Lord.

The problem is not trials. The problem is that you and I put ourselves in the position, like David, where a trial is required to get our attention and move us back to Him. Unfortunately, there are many today who will not respond to a trial or to discipline of the Lord in that manner. They will not draw closer.

In His parable of the soils, Jesus described the condition of many today who opt to go off into bitterness and anger instead of returning to fellowship with the Lord and His flock. One group never were saved to begin with, the other are now disillusioned followers who have no heart to participate in the life of His church, any church.

Matthew 13:20–22

“But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.” (NKJV)



David remembers what it was like to go into the Tabernacle to worship. The smells of the sacrifices, the sounds of prayer, the worship and the singing. His heart is reaching for the grounding that he had and he desires to have that back.

When we realize that Christians possess an even more potent revelation of God's power and glory in his Word, and when we realize what it truly means to join with heaven's praise to the risen Christ at the right hand of the Father, we are reminded why we should be at least as excited about worshiping in the church today as David was under the old covenant. (Phillips 2019, 220-221)

But David is now in the wilderness.

This is why he is out looking and watching the sunrise and thirsting for the fellowship with the Lord and with others that he had enjoyed in the past. Being in exile would not allow him that if he is in the wilderness due to Saul or Absalom.

Thinking on his experiences in the Tabernacle, David resolves to worship where he is. He longs for the fellowship, but his desire to fellowship with the Lord is even stronger. He has a deep spiritual thirst that only the Lord can resolve for him.

If you are off in a dry land right now, come back to the Lord. He has not moved and He is waiting for your return.

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (ESV)

Jesus told a parable expressing the heart of the Father for us. His desire for us to be with Him and if we are off in a dry place, to return to Him and be restored. That is what 1 John 1:9 is all about restoration. That is what many of us need, restoration.

In the story of the prodigal son, we read of a young man who wanted his inheritance right now and then he left and lived the good life, until the money ran out. With the noise level reduced and the women gone, it was just him and it was really dry.

It was so dry that this Jewish young man hired himself out to take care of pigs, and soon he wanted to eat what the pigs were eating. It was at that point he made a decision to return to the house of the father hoping to be a servant.

I have talked with so many followers of Jesus who have strayed away into sin and they think that it is so bad God would never forgive them, but here we see that the Father did. In fact, the Father had been watching for him.

Luke 15:20–24

"And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, **his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'** But the father said to his servants, **'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.'** And they began to celebrate." (ESV)

As we return to Him, God runs back to us, His love for us is that strong.



Psalm 63:3–5

“Because Your favor is better than life, My lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul is satisfied as with fat and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.” (NASB 2020)

The faithfulness of our Lord is incomparable. He will always be faithful, and He will always love those who are His, those who have come to Him and believe in the completed work of Jesus Christ trusting Him for salvation. He longs for us to be with Him as much as we do.

In fact, His love and faithfulness towards us is better than life. David's words, not mine.

David knows that his life is in the Lord and as such, he is not worried about his own life, the bigger treasure in his eyes is to have God's favor.

Stop and think for a moment where you and I would be today if not for the salvation of Jesus Christ and the changes He has done in each of us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are indeed new. In Christ, we know we are saved, we know we have eternal life, we know we will be with Him for all eternity. Because His steadfast love, His favor is better than life. It is because of that that David knew he was secure and we know we are secure as well.

All of this leads David to praise. “David offers ‘praise’ to God (verse 3) and wishes to ‘bless’ God throughout his life (see Psalm 61:8) by giving him the honour and respect that is due to him. When David writes, ‘I will lift up my hands in your name’ his raised hands toward heaven were an outward indication of his inward desire to worship, calling on the God who had revealed himself to him (see Psalm 28:2; 1 Timothy 2:8). (Eveson 2014-2015, 385)

I would say that one of the biggest problems I have with the way many churches now do worship, is the expectation of outward signs of worship regardless of what is going on in the heart. I have been to services where the folks leading in worship were not there to perform, they were there to bring all of us into the throne room and be at awe in the Lord we were singing of and praising and worshipping. And worship became sweeter with each moment.

But as with anything, a perversion of this now exists with the performance-oriented aspect becoming preeminent. It is not about coming into the throne room, it is about eliciting emotional response.

Yes, we do indeed want to do our level best for the Lord, but we should be doing it to worship and praise Him, not draw attention to ourselves, or intentionally create an environment leading to emotional response rather than heart response. I am aware that there are those who will disagree with me on this saying that let the emotions go first and the heart will follow. A fruit of the Spirit is self-control, just saying.

Physical expressions of worship, with the heart not being there, is nothing more than religion and works and as such is no value to God. Jeremiah pointed out the need for the heart to be involved.

Lamentations 3:40–41

“Let's examine and search out our ways, And let's return to the LORD. We raise our heart and hands Toward God in heaven;” (NASB 2020)

At the time of the defeat of the nation by Babylon, the people were encouraged by Jeremiah to lift up their hearts, and then the physical expressions would follow.



What is this about feasting while out in the wilderness that David then goes into? What we know is that David, from the moment his day begins, he desires to be with the Lord. He is just as desperate for the Lord as is someone in the desert with no water. He knows that the source of refreshment is the Lord.

Now David switches from water to food. His soul is satisfied, from the Lord, not from food. David craves God more than a man in the desert craves water, and more than a man would crave food. He is joyful and the praise coming from him is a result of the joy of the Lord to his soul.

Is David obsessed with the Lord? Absolutely. He has been talking about starting his day with the Lord and spending his day with the Lord. Is he done? Nope.

Psalm 63:6

“When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches,” (NASB 2020)

David is showing us here what it means to be in love with the Lord. I remember when I first met Dianne, I kept thinking about her, all of the time and soon, it became obvious at least to me that the only way I could deal with my obsession is to see if she would marry me, and that was over 40 years ago. Am I still obsessed? Yes.

How about the Lord, I am even more so. Jesus Christ has saved me, He has changed me and taken care of me even when I couldn't do such a good job of it myself. I find I cannot do life without the Lord, not at all. David was in that place. Paul was as well.

Philippians 1:21

“**For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**” (NASB 2020)

Wow Ken, that sounds rather extreme. Yes, it is and guess what, that is what Biblical Christianity is Extreme. Jesus said the following.

Luke 14:26–27

““If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” (NET 2nd ed.)

That sounds rather extreme when you look at it from our culture today. Last century, we would be called, in a derogatory fashion, Fundamentalists. Because we teach and believe the word.

Howard Crosby identified this for us. “What is the Word? It is not man's philosophy nor man's rhetoric. **It is the Divine revelation. It is called the Word of God, because it is not of man.** As God's it has both authority and power—authority to demand attention, and power to convert and save the soul. It is not to be pounded in man's mortar, nor run into man's mould. It is not to be twisted and fitted to man's preconceived ideas. It is not to be filtered through man's strainer, nor mixed with man's conceits. **It is God's and as God's let no man dare add to it, or take from it, or alter it in any way.** The Lord Jesus stands by His cross, where He offered up the sacrifice for sin, and points backward to the Old Testament, and forward to the New, as alike the Word of God. Of the former He cries, “Search the Scriptures”; of the latter He tells His apostles that the Paraclete would come and teach them all things, and they should bear witness. **This Old and New Testament is one revelation of God—one Bible—one unerring rule of faith.** God has not given us a doubtful and deceitful light for our path. He has not given us a bundle of truth and fable tied up together. He has not left us to our weak and discordant reason, and thus made revelation superfluous. He has given His people a “sure word of prophecy” as the only reasonable guide for our weak reason and our sinful natures; and on this sure Word is His Church built. (Crosby 2005, 170-171)



As followers of Jesus Christ, we are being called to follow Jesus the same way that David followed the Lord, with whole heart at every moment during the day. To literally crave the Lord and thirst for His presence even over life itself. That is indeed extremism. Francis Schaeffer said the following.

As we look at our culture today, “we cannot think that all of this is unrelated to us. It will all come crashing down unless you and I and each one of us who loves the Lord and his church are willing to act. And so I challenge you. I call for Christian radicals, and especially young Christian radicals, to stand up in loving confrontation, but confrontation—looking to the living Christ moment by moment for strength—in loving confrontation with all that is wrong and destructive in the church, our culture, and the state. If there is not loving confrontation, but courageous confrontation, and if we do not have the courage to draw lines even when we wish we did not have to, then history will look back at this time as the time when certain “evangelical colleges” went the way of Harvard and Yale, when certain “evangelical seminaries” went the way of Union Seminary in New York, and the time when other “evangelical organizations” were lost to Christ’s cause—forever.” (Schaeffer 1982, 410-411)

And since he has pinned those words over 40 years ago, his predictions have become true, and we see a Laodicean malaise in the church today.

Let me ask this question as we see how serious David was about his faith. How serious are we? How important is Jesus to us? Do we want Jesus more than anything else in this world? Do we desire for Him to return for us right now at this very minute so we can be with Him for all eternity? Do we want Him more than we want the things of this world?

1 John 2:15–17

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, because all that is in the world (the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the arrogance produced by material possessions) is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away with all its desires, but the person who does the will of God remains forever.” (NET 2nd ed.)

For David, this is life and it is his delight. I used to have season tickets when we lived in Lubbock to watch Texas Tech football. Each season, there would be new folks seated around us and we would immediately be best buddies because, well we were rooting for the same football team. I would normally have no voice left by half time. We were all serious fans, short for fanatic.

But for me, I was convicted by my behavior because the Holy Spirit asked me a simple question. Do I get that excited over someone coming to Christ for the first time ever? Heaven does.

Luke 15:4–7

“If one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, doesn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? When he does find it, he joyfully hoists it onto his shoulders; and when he gets home, he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Come, celebrate with me, because I have found my lost sheep!’ I tell you that in the same way, **there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who turns to God from his sins than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.**” (CJB)

David, for the most part, is a “no compromise” kind of guy. In that regard he would be a lot like the three young men who were exiles in Babylon and refused to bow down to the image made by the King. Repeatedly, we are introduced with those moments in the word and now we are seeing those moments introduced to us in real time. This is an important psalm for us today. Paul added the following.



1 Corinthians 16:13–14

“Stay alert, stand firm in the faith, show courage, be strong. Everything you do should be done in love.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Why is David, why should we as well, be such extremists for Jesus?

Simple, because of who He is and what He has done and continues to do for David every single day.

Psalms 63:7–8

“For You have been my help, And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to You; Your right hand takes hold of me.” (NASB 2020)

How in the world does anyone find the desire to worship and praise the Lord while they are in the middle of the wilderness, in the middle of a trial. I mean, a rock is his pillow, it works but it isn't the best for a good night's sleep. Again, he is choosing, making a decision, to remember what the Lord has done for Him. He knows about the Ark of the Covenant and the wings of the cherubim there on the ark. And he is not the first one in his family to find trust in the shadow of His wings.

His great grandmother made a decision to stay with Ruth, a decision which was commented on by David's great grandad, Boaz.

Ruth 2:11–12

“And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. **The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.**”” (NKJV)

Yes, there is a family history of seeking rely on the Lord. David wants to remain in communion with the Lord, even out in the wilderness and if under stress, even while under stress.

He has made a decision in the past that he will never change. He is following the Lord. “To press hard after God is to follow him closely, as those that are afraid of losing the sight of him, and to follow him swiftly, as those that long to be with him. This David did, and he owns, to the glory of God, Thy right hand upholds me.” (Henry 1994, 832)

No matter where he is, David knows that he is safe in the Lord. His salvation is secure. Jesus describes this place David is in and where we as followers of Jesus, should be as well.

John 14:21–27

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**” (NKJV)



David is indeed submissive to the Lord, but he is also actively serving the Lord as well, even in the midst of trials.

I have seen those who enter a trial and continue to serve even becoming more determined to serve. Then I have seen those who fold up their tents and go home. Worse, they have even gone as far as to leave fellowship with other believers as a result of the trial and they have placed their tent, right in the middle of a desert.

Spiritual abuse will do that; it is indeed one of the intended outcomes Satan has for it. It is to alienate the believer from the church so badly that they will become ineffective and never serve again.

David would know all about that due to Saul.

Michael Kruger tells us that those who have been subjected to this type of trial, tend to stay away from the church since to them, it “comes down to an issue of trust. They don’t feel safe in any congregation, wondering if that church will someday turn against them too. Consequently, those who have suffered spiritual abuse often find that they are suspicious, worried, and even paranoid about forging new relationships. This makes it difficult for abused people to make friends in their new church—after all, their close friends turned against them at their prior church. Therefore, abuse survivors often find themselves isolated for years as they struggle to build a new community that they feel is safe. These doubts about the church are closely related to doubts about Christianity itself. Victims of spiritual abuse often testify to how they struggle to believe what they once did.” (Kruger 2022, 107)

David did not go there. Saul abused him and misused him. He lied about him to others and forced him to run for his life. But here in the wilderness of that trial, David is remaining, a choice, to be faithful to the Lord. He looks at the situation from the Lord’s perspective.

Psalms 63:9–11

“But those who seek my life to destroy it, Will go into the depths of the earth. They will be turned over to the power of the sword; They will be a prey for foxes. But the king will rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him will boast, For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.” (NASB 2020)

As David is looking at his own situation, yes there are indeed those who are attacking him and seeking to kill him. This could again, be due to his being on the run from Saul or from Absalom. But David has the view of God about those who are seeking his destruction. God will take care of him, and them too.

David is reflecting the end point for those who are rebels and are not believers and he contrast that with those who are with him and following the Lord. “The confidence that the one has placed in God is seen in vindication as the ones who sought to destroy are indeed destroyed.” (deClaisse-Walford and Tanner 2014, 521)

David will continue to place his trust and faith in the Lord. In trials, or not. And all who do the same will boast in the Lord but there is indeed justice for those who are the cause of the trial.

As we encounter trials, remember, they are intended to grow us closer to the Lord and how we react is important. David has shown us the primary thing is to keep our eyes on Him and long for Him and His presence, no matter what.

If you are in a trial right now, it is to grow you in Christ. And yes, it isn’t fun, I know, none of the ones I have gone through were fun.



I also usually pray, Lord, help me to learn the lesson you are teaching me so I do not have to relearn it ever again.

If you are still in that dry place and have not responded well to the trail, seek the Lord. Exercise 1 John 1:9, get back into communion with Him and then, if you ceased to fellowship with other believers, find a place to once again become involved. Again, sheep need other sheep.

Let's pray.

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