

Sunday Night Message

April 20, 2014

Psalm 63 – Meeting with God In-Between Church Services

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 63

Introduction

"A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah."

The context of this psalm is said to be while David was in the wilderness, which could refer to the time that he was on the run from Saul, or it may refer to the time that David was driven from the city of Jerusalem because of the rebellion of Absalom.

Whatever the context of the psalm, we know that the psalm was written when David was geographically away from the sanctuary, the place where God's people went to worship the Lord.

See 2 Samuel 15:13 – 29

David couldn't be at the place of worship all of the time, and here in this psalm we see that there were times when he was away more than he wanted to be; but he could still meet with and worship God. In this psalm we will see that David had a intimate devotional relationship with the Lord.

As we examine David's daily devotions, let's think of ways that we can meet improve our time spent with God in between the church services.

I David Entered Early and Earnestly into God's Presence (vs. 1 – 2)

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary."

(Psalms 63:1 - 2)

The word, "early" here can mean earnestly also, but it has the idea that David made communing with God a high priority:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

David not only prayed early, he also prayed often:

"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." (Psalms 55:17)

David compared his longing for God to the way a thirsty man craves water.

Illustration – When I was a boy I loved to play baseball, and I played in organized leagues for many years, but the little league was usually finished by the end of June. We wanted to keep playing after the organized leagues were finished so we organized our own neighborhood teams. I played for Birchwood Park, and we played against teams from Lake Riviera, Midstreams, Cherry Quay, and Herbertsville.

One very hot summer day we had a game scheduled against Lake Riviera. We were the home team, and since our neighborhood was next to the high school we played on one of fields that the high school team practiced on.

The temperature was near the hundred-degree mark, and only one kid on our team had enough common sense to bring a jug of water. There were 9 of us on the field that day, and only one jug of water. After sweltering out there in the field for a half hour or so we became extremely thirsty. The kid that brought the jug, at first, wasn't going to share with anybody, but he quickly realized that would be very dangerous to his health. Reluctantly, he agreed to let us each have just one swallow per person. The first guy that got the jug to his lips didn't follow the rules, and he turned away from the rest of us and proceeded to gulp down as much water as he could before the jug was ripped from his hands. By the time the jug got to me, there was hardly a few drops left. I don't remember ever being as thirsty as I was that day. I would have sold my birthright for a few more drops of cold water.

This is the way that David longed after God.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6)

"Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:13-14)

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." (John 7:37)

Amos wrote prophetically about a time when people would thirst after God's Word.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:" (Amos 8:11)

David experienced the power and glory of God in the sanctuary, and he wanted to take a little of that with him when he was away from the sanctuary.

II David Eagerly Expressed God's Praise (vs. 3 - 5)

"Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:" (Psalms 63:3 - 5)

"Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." (Psalms 147:1)

- 1 We can praise God for who He is.
- 2 We can praise God for what He has done. (Keep a praise journal)

The word, "praise" appears 160 times in the psalms alone.

Psalm 100 speaks about praise in his courts, referring to the Tabernacle, but God wants us to praise him all of the time.

"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." (Psalms 34:1-4)

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." (Hebrews 13:15)

- 3 We need to learn to praise Him for all things, even things that we don't like:

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;" (Ephesians 5:19-20)

III David Envisioned God in His Pondering (vs. 6 - 7)

"When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice." (Psalms 63:6 - 7)

David thought a lot about God. He thought about Him when he went to bed at night.

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
(Psalms 1:1-3)*

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:8)

Meditation has the idea of "chewing the cud".

IV David Energetic Pursuit, and as a Result, Enjoyment of God's Protection

"My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me. But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes. But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped." (Psalms 63:8 - 11)

God will take care of those that love Him and pursue Him. David wanted God's presence with him all of the time, and if God is with you, your enemies don't have a chance.

*"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"
(Romans 8:31)*