We’re All Chilean Miners March 29, 2020

*Psalm 42 Series: Hope from Israel’s Oldest Playlist*

Before being heroes, they were victims. These people who are coming out of the bottom of the mine are different people…and their families too. – Sergio Gonzalez

Intro: These unprecedented times aren’t completely unprecedented.

Warnings signs for trapped miners:

A feeling of spiritual emptiness. v. 1

Disruption in eating and sleeping patterns. v. 3

Disconnection from church fellowship. v. 4

Unsupportive faith environment. v. 3

Spiritual opposition creates wounds. v. 10

Spiritual opposition gets inside your own head. v. 9

It feels like God’s against you not for you. v. 7

1. Invite God into your struggles.
2. We need to be honest with God about our questions.

v. 2 *When shall I come and appear before God?*

v. 9 *Why have you forgotten me?*

v. 9 *Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?*

1. We need to be honest with God about our pain.

v. 3 *My tears have been my food day and night …*

v. 3 *… they say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?”*

v. 10 *As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me … they say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?”*

1. Being honest doesn’t mean being disrespectful to God.

v. 9 *I say to God, my rock …*

v. 2 *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*

* What are some of the warning signs for trapped miners that you’ve felt since the COVID-19 crisis began?
* As long as we hear a sermon, why do we still need corporate worship and church fellowship?
* Why does spiritual opposition feel so powerful when we’re disconnected from fellowship with other believers?
* What do you find hard about being honest (but respectful) in sharing your questions and pain with God in prayer?
1. Invite God into your memories.
2. In the worst of times, remember your best times with God.

v. 4 *These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival.*

1. Remember what God has done, not just what He hasn’t.

v. 6 *My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you …*

v. 8 *By day the LORD commands his steadfast love …*

v. 8 *… at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.*

* What are some great memories of God that you could turn to in hard times?
* What are some things that you could remember that God has done when you’re tempted to dwell on what He hasn’t done?
1. Invite God into your emotions.
2. Don’t let your feelings off the hook.

vv. 5, 11 *Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?*

1. Call your emotions to hope in God.

vv. 5-6, 11 *Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.*

* People who mock Christians for having blind faith in God often trust their feelings with blind faith. What are some ways that we can trust our feelings?
* What are some ways that you can strengthen and affirm your hope when you’re feeling hopeless?

Jesus climbed down into the mine to save us.

* John 19:28 *After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”*
* Mark 15:34 *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*
* John 7:37 *On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.*

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Psalm 115.

Notes