Holding on by a Thread March 8, 2020

*Psalm 63 Series: Hope from Israel’s Oldest Playlist*

The only way you can fundamentally change anything is change what you worship. – Tim Keller

Intro: “I made Cast Away because I wanted to examine the concept of four years of hopelessness, in which you have none of the requirements for living — food, water, shelter, fire and company.” (Tom Hanks)

What’s the king doing in the desert?

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

2 Samuel 15:10 *But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, ‘Absalom is king at Hebron!’”*

2 Samuel 15:23 *And all the land wept aloud as all the people passed by, and the king crossed the brook Kidron, and all the people passed on toward the wilderness.*

2 Samuel 17:29 *The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness.*

1. Identify your thirst.
2. Consider what David could have thirsted for.

v. 1 *O God, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

1. Trials force us to choose our hope.

v. 1 *O God, you are my God …*

1. Heartaches have to be diagnosed.

v. 1 *my soul thirsts for you*

v. 1 *my flesh faints for you*

v. 1 *as in a dry and weary land where there is no water*

John 4:13-14 *Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

* David’s feeling of thirst is understandable, but what are some of the things he might have sought as the cure for his thirst?
* How do you declare your hope in prayer? What does that sound like? Have you ever done that?

1. Choose your memories.
2. Consider what David could have been tempted to remember.
3. Remember how God has revealed Himself to you.

v. 2 *So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.*

v. 3 *your steadfast love is better than life*

v. 6 *I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night*

v. 7 *you have been my help*

v. 8 *your right hand upholds me*

1. Savour the memories by expressing them.

v. 3 *Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.*

v. 4 *So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.*

v. 5 *My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips …*

* What would David have been tempted to remember?
* How do you choose your memories in prayer? Is there anything you’ve found that helps you to do that?

1. Declare your trust.
2. Consider what David could have thought about the future.
3. Affirm what God has revealed about the future of the wicked.

v. 9 *But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth …*

v. 10 *they shall be given over to the power of the sword*

v. 10 *they shall be a portion for jackals*

1. Affirm what God has revealed about the future of the righteous.

v. 11 *But the king shall rejoice in God …*

v. 11 *all who swear by him shall exult*

v. 11 *for the mouths of liars will be stopped*

* What thoughts of the future do we usually have when times are tough?
* What are some ways that we can declare our trust in prayer? How is that kind of prayer different than how we usually pray in trials?

Jesus’ love is “better than life.”

* Romans 5:8 *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Psalm 27.

Notes